

Chapter 4 - Lisa, the Visiting Calamity

"A famous magician with the name Lisa? Yeah, I know her really well."

Several days after a letter for Katia had arrived, just when I was relaxing with everyone at a table in the courtyard since I had a little bit of free time available, I received a call on my MHCD from Burkhart-san.

Given that the task of fetching him with 『Teleportation』 because he wanted to deliver a letter from Margrave Breithilde finished right away, I tried asking Burkhart-san about Lisa.

Burkhart-san, who was a veteran adventurer as well, had many connections and replied that he knew Lisa well, too.

"『Lisa the Blizzard』, right? You might say she's famous in various ways. We already talked about her before, Earl-sama. Think back, at the time with the former Duke Hertha's duel uproar..."
(Burkhart)

"Ah, the people mentioned as candidates for 『He was able to acquire an excellent representative?』!" (Wendelin)

But yeah, I heard the name 『Lisa the Blizzard』 back then.

It was her that crossed Burkhart-san's mind first when he was considering possible, powerful candidates that the Duke might sent out as representatives in the duel against me.

"Hee, for that girl to have reached a level to teach others." (Burkhart)

"You're well-acquainted with her?"

"I guess I know her to some extent. I have also instructed her a bit during her time as new adventurer. I thought that she's not the type to teach magic to others, but for her to take Katia-jou-chan under her wing...people will always remain a mystery." (Burkhart)

At the end of Burkhart-san's look, Katia was working hard with her solo training in the courtyard without having joined our chat.

In order to be able to handle Lisa whenever she might get here...that's not the reason, but since she was worried about the time of Lisa's appearance, she was apparently getting her mind off it through a training regiment.

Contrary to the telephone calls and mails in Japan, it was impossible to provide the accurate date and time for someone's arrival in letters.

I had lent out a MHCD to Katia as well, but since Lisa didn't have one, there was no way for them contact each other.

And even if it were possible, I felt like Katia definitely wouldn't do it after looking at her current state.

"As expected of teacher. To have the experience of having taught even that person called Lisa."
(Katharina)

Katharina admired Burkhart-san's wide connections.

Those connections meant he knew the outstanding ones among the adventurers, but for him to have

taught magic to such a famous person...

"I have never heard about Big Sis having been taught magic by you, Burkhart-san." (Katia)

Katia, who had focused on her training to escape from reality until now, came over and joined the conversation with Burkhart-san.

"Well, it was just a little bit until she ran off. Even so, is she making you call her Big Sis or something?" (Burkhart)

"She told me she would hate to be called 『Teacher』 since it would give her an image of being a grandmother. I got scolded whenever I called her anything else but Big Sis." (Katia)

"That's a really messed up reasoning. I don't even think that there's much of a difference between Big Sis and Teacher." (Burkhart)

Lisa had Katia call her Big Sis at any cost, and apparently got angry whenever she called her otherwise.

I felt like the way of calling one 『Big Sis』 had a smack of grandmother, but since the person herself apparently liked it, why not. There was no point in telling others what to do anyway. I have been calling my master just like that, but he looked much younger than his true age gave away. And yet I feel like he possessed something like dignity at the same time. Though I think it was also owed to him not aging after becoming a Talking Corpse.

"For her to fuss so much about how she's called, she must be pretty old?" (Wilma)

"Wilma, as usual you really don't hold back. You won't hear Big Sis' personal information out of my mouth, okay?" (Katia)

"Is it going to become a problem afterwards, if you mention it?" (Wilma)

"I won't say anything about that either!" (Katia)

Katia didn't want to talk about Lisa the Blizzard's age, no matter what.

Wilma didn't pester her about it either, but because of her clever way of asking, she indirectly got a rough idea.

"On that subject, I wonder when she's going to come to meet with you, Katia? Going by the letter, it doesn't feel as if it's that far off, though."

"It's frustrating since I don't know the exact date and time. Even if she immediately came from the capital to Baulburg with a magic airship, I don't think she will come to meet me right away. Big Sis is an adventurer who's capable at her work." (Katia)

"So you're saying there are also the greetings with the adventurer's guild here?"

"That's how it is." (Katia)

Going by Katia's state, I guess that Lisa must be a fairly quirky person.

Even so, she was a top-notch adventurer and magician as a woman.

Although it's not like she had a nominated request, she should still show up at the adventurer guilds in the capital and Baulburg to inform them about her whereabouts since she would leave her home base in the capital for an extended period of time and move over to Baulburg.

Nominated requests for remarkable adventurers flowed in often. Hence the guild wanted to know their location as much as possible.

"As for her abilities, Big Sis is amazing." (Katia)

"Your way of phrasing it sounds as if it's not easy to imagine from her usual appearance...but she's unmarried, right?"

"That's because Big Sis is strong-willed..." (Katia)

A female adventurer who was capable at her job, and moreover could earn her own money since she was a magician.

Such women didn't approach men often.

Rather than marrying some weird guy, they would have fun living and earning money by themselves.

As a matter of fact, female adventurers, who weren't overly skilled, usually ended up marrying rather quickly.

Exactly because they understood that it would be difficult for them to make a living by themselves with their level of ability, they made some compromises towards the other party...that would be the general idea behind it.

Those kinds of circumstances could be understood by anyone.

Come to think of it, even at my previous life's trading company, the rate of singles seemed to be high among female members of the management that earned money as capable people...

One time, at a drinking party, I had a female superior, who whined about there being no decent man around despite her even having tried to participate in something called marriage hunt while gulping down her sake, pushed on me by a male superior who felt troubled by her.

Since it's not like I could have run away in the middle of it, I was forced to keep her company until dawn, ending up listening to her story in a half dead state.

I'm pretty sure there's no worse misfortune than that.

"In the case of Big Sis, her yearning for a marriage is terrific. Just as there's no partner..." (Katia)

"But, that girl had always been so damn hard-headed...isn't that a lost case?" (Burkhart)

Burkhart-san muttered a few words while recalling his past encounters with Lisa.

It might also have been her old character, but based on her job as adventurer, it was also a trait of female adventurers that many of them wouldn't allow for men to look down on them.

If they didn't do that, it would be difficult for them to survive in that profession, but on the other hand, a marriage moved into a distant future, if they acted like this.

It was an extremely hard profession for female adventurers.

"However, she's quite the beauty..." (Burkhart)

"Hee, really?"

"Earl-sama, wanna try to take her as your wife?" (Burkhart)

"No, it's fine..." (Wendelin)

I suspected that Lisa to be a somewhat inferior version of Katharina who had also worked as female adventurer and magician.

Katharina had various cute parts because of this, though.

Also, I think I harbored feelings of sympathy towards Katharina because of her loner character that's similar to mine.

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"I see. Because Katia-jou-chan feels anxious about not knowing when Lisa would rush in here, she has been escaping reality by eagerly striving in her training." (Burkhart)

"Uuh...it's because I can't think about anything else." (Katia)

"It's not that I don't understand your feelings. So..."

Suddenly Burkhart-san's expression became stern.

Once I followed his eyes, I saw Amalie and Therese happily chatting at the neighboring table.

Those two were close in age to my inner self. Since before the tunnel uproar, Therese had taken lessons in cooking from Amalie and often spent time together with her. They had become friends.

"We had this crystal ball back home as well." (Amalie)

"Every noble house in the Empire had always at least one. For the sake of finding magicians." (Therese)

"This crystal ball belongs to this mansion?" (Amalie)

"Indeed. I borrowed it for a little bit. There's something I want to test." (Therese)

The crystal ball, which I had used in my childhood to examine my aptitude as magician, was laying on top of their table. Therese held her hands out towards the ball.

The crystal ball was shining in beautiful rainbow colors.

"It becomes rainbow-colored if you hold your hands above it. I remember that the same happened in my childhood, too." (Amalie)

"And if you have talent in magic, this will vanish." (Therese)

The rainbow-colored light vanished from the crystal ball when Therese held her hands above it. This was proof of her possessing talent for magic.

Therese had an aptitude for magic!

Not just Burkhart-san and me, but everyone else looked nervous.

Therese herself seemed very glad.

I guess, as could be expected from a former Duchess.

"My body became hot." (Therese)

"Amazing! It's just as I've heard from Wend-kun before." (Amalie)

"I also dreamed of becoming a magician in my childhood. I played around by placing my hands on the crystal ball in the mansion and reading magic books. I carefully studied a lot more books about methods of magic training than the magicians around me." (Therese)

Therese had apparently desired to become a magician in her childhood, but that didn't come to pass. That's why she was smiling full of joy after having confirmed her talent in magic now.

"Back then it didn't work, right?" (Amalie)

"For my magic talent to appear after I passed the age of 20, eh? That's a pleasant miscalculation." (Therese)

"Amazing! So this way exists, too. It would be nice if I could use magic, too." (Amalie)

"A hidden talent for magic, huh...? At present it might be something thou can't draw out without Wendelin." (Therese)

"That's great, but it might be a special skill that would cause a huge uproar if it were to be found out." (Amalie)

"Indeed. It's not like it's something that thou could readily tell other people." (Therese)

Even though the topic of their conversation was quite dangerous, the two older women were noisily chatting while having fun.

At this point Therese's talent as magician had shown itself.

Burkhart-san apparently realized what that meant.

And he looked at me in astonishment.

"Earl-sama..." (Burkhart)

"Ahaha...it just means that I'm a man, just like you, Burkhart-san." (Wendelin)

"I think that's completely unrelated to me though..." (Burkhart)

It was nothing of significance.

Therese and I had simply entered such a relationship.

The other day I had visited her without reservations since Therese said that I could come over at night whenever I felt like it. Moreover, as she said that I should just stay over, I ended up staying while thinking that it would be rude if I were to decline here in a half-assed manner.

"You really didn't wait long to make a move on her, did you?" (Burkhart)

Burkhart-san pointed out quite bluntly.

And yet I couldn't deny it.

"On a first glance it might look like this, but there had been many man-woman interactions between me and Wendelin since the Friendship Visit Group. Thee should understand as much as well, Burkhart." (Therese)

"Yes, you were quite proactive, weren't you Therese-sama? Even I remember as much." (Burkhart)

"That means it's a victory of my strong tenacity and my phantasmagoric strategy that I kept passive until I abandoned my title as Duchess Philip." (Therese)

"If you say so..." (Burkhart)

Burkhart-san looked at Therese with an expression that felt as if he was saying 『Isn't it just coincidence that it turned out like this?』

"Well, if there aren't any complaints from Roderich-dono and the madams, I don't have any reason or right to object to this as employed head magician of Margrave Breithilde, the patron of Earl Baumeister-sama." (Burkhart)

While saying that he couldn't comment on this anyway, Burkhart-san asked Elise and the others, who could be considered to be the final breakwater, about the pros and cons of accepting Therese.

"In the past we had various thoughts about this. There were also quarrels and arguments between women at times, but those might be nice memories now. Therese-san is visiting this mansion almost every day. I think that it's something like a ratification of the current state." (Elise)

"Oh! Nothing less of Wendelin's first wife. Elise, thou are open-minded." (Therese)

Being praised by Therese, Elise smiled without any hard feelings.

Moreover, according to Elise, she had resolved herself for it to turn out like this at the point when I took responsibility for Therese's safety after it had become difficult for her to stay in the Empire. And, especially the part of Therese not being Duchess Philip anymore seemed to play a big role.

"Therese-san's advice has been saving us quite a few of troubles." (Elise)

Given that Elise was the daughter of an appointed noble, she had some overly optimistic views in regard to advising on how to rule the Baumeister Earldom.

It was Therese who actually compensated for her inadequacies in secret.

Although she had lost to Peter, it's not like she possessed autocratic authority in her large territory for show.

Since it would become troublesome if she were to act publicly, she limited it to private advices. Officially she never broke her stance of being a retired noble who was being taken care of in the Baumeister Earldom.

Even Roderich had been highly valuing her behavior. She had formed a relationship of cooking and doing other stuff together with Elise's group.

"In the end, Therese's opinion was the most correct one in regards to the matter with the tunnel, wasn't it? If we had handled it that way from the very beginning, it would have finished without all

those detours." (Ina)

"Ina, I could only say this because I was an outsider. There are many situations where statesmen end up taking the long way around because they consider things too much or are swayed by the opinions of those around them. As long as they are able to take it on the right track in the end, it's no problem, though." (Therese)

"And, in the end it got settled by Wend taking the tunnel rights. For Margrave Breithilde-sama it was a failure?"

"Yep. If Margrave Breithilde had taken the rights for himself, he would have very likely been blamed with 『Just because they are your vassals; how sly of you!』. That might have become unpleasant." (Therese)

Therese explained to Luise that such jealousy could become the main reason that caused a noble house's ruin.

"The majority of the old Eulenberg territory has been transferred, and he was entrusted with the management and construction of all kinds of facilities to be built around the tunnel. Margrave Breithilde got plenty of gain from this." (Wilma)

"It's as Wilma says. Above all, it went smoothly. Besides, Burkhart." (Therese)

"Yes...what might it be, Therese-sama?" (Burkhart)

The conversation had already digressed. Due to that Burkhart-san hadn't noticed, or rather, he probably didn't feel a strong objection towards me and Therese entering into such a relationship. A long time ago, during the previous Friendship Visit Group, he might have harbored mixed feelings about a man getting close to the little girl that looked like trouble.

He likely never expected for Therese and me to develop such relationship and moreover, for Elise and the others to authorize it officially.

Well, even I wouldn't enter a sexual relationship with Therese on my own accord.

After all I would be scared of getting scolded by Elise and the others if I did something like that.

"Officially I'm not Wendelin's wife. However, there will likely be many among the nobles treating me as Wendelin's mistress as I'm being taken care of in the Baumeister Earldom after my retirement. It will be the same treatment as with Amalie." (Therese)

As the surrounding people think 『They must have that kind of relationship』, they won't loudly criticize it after it becomes publicly known.

"Since it has the effect of containing such criticism, Wendelin might as well do as he likes. I'm not worried about my livelihood. If I were to give birth to a child, I won't say anything as long as I can guarantee the child's future. Fortunately there's still a lot of room for branch families and retainer houses left in the current Earl Baumeister House." (Therese)

She said that she had no intention to set her own child up as successor of the Earl Baumeister House.

Given that Therese herself had thoroughly experienced such case with her elder brothers, she

probably didn't want her own child to find itself in a similar position.

"I will continue to act as I have done until now. There's nothing to worry since I'm getting along well with Amalie who's in the same situation as I am." (Therese)

"I see." (Burkhart)

Therese herself declared that she didn't plan to become my wife.
That meant she would keep staying my unofficial lover until the bitter end.
And, Margrave Breithilde wouldn't have any complaints about this either.
It would be the same with the other nobles. After all there existed many nobles keeping women in such positions. If they were to imprudently criticize me, it would come backbiting them like a boomerang.

"Therefore, I request that thou train me in magic, too." (Therese)

"That's the biggest problem though... Right, since I can't leave something like that to anyone else, it's set that I will do it myself. It would be troublesome if it were to leak to the other nobles..." (Burkhart)

To Burkhart-san it didn't matter how many wives I had, but if the number of wives, who could use magic, were to suddenly increase, it would become a major hassle to hide the fact. Thus it should be something that he'd like to avoid.
But, this time it couldn't be helped.

"Even if it's a secret, it will be found out sooner or later either way. Having said that, I think for now we will go with a secret, special training for the sake of 『The late-blooming magician Therese, a shocking debut!』." (Therese)

"Therese-sama, you're really easygoing..." (Burkhart)

It's certainly no magic girl anime...but even if I said that, no one besides me would understand what I meant.

"All the retired nobles are like this. After all we have no responsibilities to bear." (Therese)

While making such carefree statement, Therese was continuing her training of letting her mana circulate between the crystal ball and her body.
Her being able to do as much while talking with others from the very beginning was also proof of her owning talent to become a great magician.

"Wow, your talent exceeds mine by far." (Katia)

Having gone through troubles and failures because of her foundation in magic, Katia admired Therese for her talent as magician.

"Burkhart-san, I'd like you to teach me as well since my mana has been increasing. I might have become able to use new spells." (Katia)

Following Therese, Katia also applied to become Burkhart-san's pupil. Because her mana had grown, she wanted to learn new spells.

"That's fine with me, but won't Lisa get angry?" (Burkhart)

"She might, but wouldn't it be a problem if the matter of me having increased my mana were to be exposed?" (Katia)

Since I heard that the person called Lisa was an excellent magician, I think there was the danger of her noticing that Katia's mana had grown after meeting with her.

"It's certainly not like thou can avoid meeting her forever either. Burkhart, how about teaching her a method to hide her increase in mana?" (Therese)

"It's not that there's none, but I think the probability that Katia-jou-chan won't be able to learn it is high. Though we won't know unless we try." (Burkhart)

Burkhart-san revealed a bothered expression as if saying that the annoying issues had increased once again.

"It's no problem if it can be hidden by that, but if it gets exposed, we will have no choice but to think about what do then. That Lisa person might be slow on the uptake, too." (Therese)

"No, the world isn't such a nice place. Lisa is an excellent magician."

If put like this, it would appear that she's an extremely troublesome person. I wonder what kind of person she might be?

"Teacher, I will help out as well. We won't understand Katia-san's talents unless we give it a try." (Katharina)

"That's true as well, I suppose." (Burkhart)

It was decided that Katharina would also assist in the training of those two. Because she was an orthodox magician, having her help out was very welcome.

"If it's for the sake of keeping it confidential, even Doushi would be fine, but..."

"I think Doushi-sama isn't quite suited for coaching beginners..."

Katharina, who pretty much entered the category of being a genius, seemed to have the perception that the two wouldn't be able to keep up with Doushi's training methods.

"Yeah, it's definitely not suitable. Let alone beginners, it's something for chosen people!"

Luise, who had received Doushi's training for two years in the past, agreed with Katharina's view. I also approved of that opinion.

In the first place, there hadn't been a single person who became his pupil after Luise and me.

『I'm troubled since many of the recent, young magicians are weaklings!』 (Armstrong)

At the time when he came to eat at our place a few days ago, Doushi got mad at young magicians running away once the education became a little harsh.

His concept of 'a little harsh' diverted quite strongly from mine and Luise's, though.

"Even before that, Doushi is currently busy."

"Busy? Why?"

"Doushi also participated actively in the Empire's civil war. He has been invited to give speeches all over the Kingdom."

Because Burkhart-san was serving Margrave Breithilde, he couldn't be pulled well into the Kingdom's administration, but Doushi was the royal palace's Head Wizard.

It was also because he was usually skipping out on his work, but it seemed that he had a considerably tight schedule forced upon him.



『Today we will listen to Armstrong-sama who played a great role in the Empire's civil war!』

『...I'm...』 (Armstrong)



"Doushi can't refuse, if His Majesty asks." (Burkhart)

Upon His Majesty's request, Doushi had departed to give speeches all over the Kingdom.

"Is Uncle-sama going to be alright?" (Elise)

"Most likely. It's not bad for him to get nervous from time to time."

"No...if there are small children among those going to listen to his stories..."

"They might cry, but it's not like he will grab and eat them, so there's no problem. However, his popularity among the women and children might be bad." Burkhart-san answered Elise.

"That sounds hectic for Doushi."

"That's how it is. He should be unable to come here for a while..." (Burkhart)

It might be owed to Burkhart-san's words, but I suddenly sensed a huge mana response closing in at high speed from the northern direction. Nervousness spread among us.

"A dragon!?" (Katia)

Katia, who had become sensitive towards the presence of other magicians because of her increased mana, kept glaring towards the northern sky while putting herself on guard.

But, Burkhart-san, the most sensitive to mana responses among us, drank his tea without a care.

"Earl-sama, even if you are alert about this mana response, it's pointless." (Burkhart)

"So it's an acquaintance, eh...?" (Wendelin)

I had also been taught by Burkhart-san how to specify an individual by just their mana response, but I had troubles learning it.

"No one but that person could have such a violent, huge mana response." (Burkhart)

The minute Burkhart-san finished that remark, a thunderous impact, as if a meteor had crashed into the courtyard, and a cloud of dust assailed us, but we were safe since I had cast 『Magic Barrier』 in advance.

I still hadn't finished drinking my tea, and yet dust got into the cup. What a waste.

"Everyone is rather calm about this." (Amalie)

It might be the first time for Amalie, but everyone recalled how that person had used the same manner of entry before.

"Talking about the same stuff day after day in cities all over the place is boring! Today is my day off! And since I had just been in the area anyway, I flew over!" (Armstrong)

The one who crashed into our courtyard was Doushi.

Probably because his mana had increased even more since the last time, the force of his landing impact had gone up. A crater had appeared at the spot where he came down.

"Doushi, please don't produce holes in our garden."

"I'm sorry..." (Armstrong)

"Aa——h! There's a huge hole in the garden!"

We were used to it, but it apparently was a quite shocking sight to the maid Lea who came running after hearing the roaring sound.

She started shouting while pointing at the crater.

The reason why she had been the only maid that rushed here was owed to Dominique currently being on maternity leave, causing Lea to have taken over the majority of Dominique's workload.

"Master! Is it an assassin?" (Lea)

"It's nothing that exaggerated, so please calm down, Lea." (Wendelin)

"I see...I will have the hole buried right away." (Lea)

Lea called the gardener Kaspar, Dominique's husband, and asked him to fill the hole. Acknowledging that, he began burying the crater together with several of his subordinates. The mansion of the Earl Baumeister House was maintained like this with many people working here.

"What an excellent gardener!" (Armstrong)

"Uncle-sama, I wonder what I should think about you increasing the workload unnecessarily..." (Elise)

Doushi praised Kaspar's performance, but he got warned by Elise.

"Doushi, you are free today?"

"Indeed! I got tired only giving speeches each and every single day!" (Armstrong)

For Doushi who was basically sports-minded, using the brain and talking to an audience was a job he wasn't cut out for at all.

"Uncle-sama, how about tea for starters...and then a meal afterwards?" (Elise)

His way of entering was a bother, but even Elise would harbor no grudge towards Doushi, her uncle.

She asked him what she should do about the meal after this.

"I! Because I had pointlessly used my brain, I have a weird craving for sweets right now! The sugar levels in my brain are too low!" (Armstrong)

"If it's cookies and similar, I can have them prepared right away."

"Elise, I especially came to the Baumeister Earldom! Therefore a dessert made out of the fruits growing in the Demon Forest would be great!" (Armstrong)

"As it's something elaborate, it will take time to make it." (Elise)

"Then I will go eat it somewhere else! All of you, come with me! I will treat you." (Armstrong)

He was hungry. He wanted to eat sweets right away. Once he was told that it would take time to have it prepared by this mansion's cooks, he said that we should go eat out since he would treat us. It was his usual my-way-style, but that didn't mean that we had any plans. That being the case, there also existed a few restaurants where I wanted to eat. Even after becoming a high-ranking noble, I became really excited when hearing that we would eat out.

"Everyone, you don't have any errands to run, right?"

"Yes. I think it's nice to eat out from time to time. I'm looking forward to it very much."

"Ina-chan, where should we go?"

"Wait, I will go fetch my restaurant guide for Baulburg at once (Ina)

Elise, Luise and Ina seemed to be very happy about Doushi's invitation.

"There's a restaurant I want to visit! It's a sweets shop called 『Galox [ef_note]The name used here is ギャルツネ (Gyarutsune). A character from Kaiketsu Zorori. The name is a combination of Gal (Gyaru) and Fox (Kitsune). In the manga series it's a fox that ends up eating everything due to its superhuman appetite. The manga is obviously a gag manga, so the name of the character is modeled after ギャル曽根 (Gal Sone - born Natsuko Sone), a Japanese talent and gourmet commentator[/efn_note]』!" (Armstrong)

"Doushi, I recommend that place."

"I want to eat the 『Bucket Parfait』 from that place!" (Armstrong)

At that point Doushi and Wilma reached a mutual understanding. That Galox store...there existed a similar female, big eater talent in my previous life...? A coincidence, right?