

Chapter 205 - It seems to be the Lepard Capture Battle - Sequel

"You know, don't you!? What will happen if the outlandish you and me, a hero, were to fight in this place!" Lepard said in a fluster, unwilling to fight against Frau from the bottom of his heart, but Frau only stared at Lepard without any sign of being perturbed.

While suspicious whether Frau might possess some kind of secret weapon against him due to her overly strong confidence, Lepard continued, "I'm the hero of the beastmen, and although I'm indebted to Renya~nya in various ways, it's not like I have any duty to follow your guys' order, do I!?"

"It's an order from master ~nano!"

"Then bring that guy over here! Or come back again once he's returned!"

Lepard's demand wasn't that unusual. In the first place, Klinge's side didn't possess the authority to force Lepard to do something. It's because Lepard himself had declared that he would only do as told when personally told so by Renya.

"Master is busy ~no! Right now, Frau is master's representative ~nano!"

"I ain't lowering my head to a representative!"

Being told so, Frau groaned deeply. And Lepard, who had said it, donned an expression of knowing that he had gone a bit too far.

Certainly, the other party was a fairy boasting outlandish abilities, but she also had some mentally immature parts to her, just as her appearance suggested. If he dealt with such a person with a tit for tat approach like now, it wasn't clear what kind of means she would use once she felt offended.

If pushed to say, you would think that the correct approach would be to soothe her while persuading and talking it out with her, but unable to take back the words that had already left his mouth, Lepard clenched his fists tightly, believing that there might be no other way but to duke it out.

However, the action Frau adopted in front of Lepard, who had resolved himself for battle, was something that drastically diverted from his expectations.

"I understand ~no. In that case our side will deal with you appropriately ~no."

The instant Lepard put himself on guard, wondering whether she would come at him, suddenly one fire pillar after the other blew up into the sky on the plain that should be empty.

Those fire pillars illuminated the plain, which was on the verge of getting dark as the sun had sunken, bright red, and Lepard instantly narrowed his eyes and shaded them with an arm due to the dazzling intensity of the flames.

With several fire pillars gushing out behind her, Frau spread her arms widely. Without Lepard realizing, her usual apron dress had changed into a black robe decorated with an over-the-top

amount of golden and silver accessories.

"Wut?"

"Hero Lepard, for thou to foolishly oppose this Frau. Know thine own standing ~no."

Frau's voice, which had been girlish until now, had been forcibly lowered down, changing into something that echoed strangely well for some reason.

Even while surprised by the change, Lepard harbored doubts about the flames bursting out of the ground. As a warrior, Lepard had seen spells resembling those flames, which continued to blow upwards with rumbling sounds, on several occasions, but they shouldn't have the effect of continuously blowing up flames. Even as he wondered whether that might be some kind of illusion technique, the heat wafting over from Frau's direction indicated that those fire pillars were quite real.

"Foolish hero, it's not too late yet. Submit to me. The other three heroes have already surrendered to my camp. Even if thou defy me all by thineself, it bears no meaning by now."

"Umm, come on. What kind of demon king are you supposed to be?"

As if not having heard Lepard, who glared at her with half open eyes while still standing ready, Frau continued, and as if in response to her words, the fire pillars' intensity went up by yet another level, "Or do thou wish for thine soul to be eradicated at the end of eternal torture? Do thou wish to be exposed to cries of pain that won't end while being carved into thou ten thousand fold? Do thou wish to learn that even death won't save thou from my hands?"

With each word, lightning ripped through the sky. With the lightning and fire pillars in her back, Frau's expression couldn't be seen well by Lepard because of the backlighting, but only the crescent-moon-like smile on her lips strangely burned itself deeply into his eyes.

"As I said, what kind of demon king are you supposed to be!? Are you a devil!?"

"I'm a lovely silky-san who has been born in Kukrika and grown up in Klinge, but what about it?" Frau flatly answered Lepard, who had shouted as loudly as he could to make his retort, as if her exaggerated eeriness until now had been a lie.



"A silky won't do stuff like that! No matter how you look at it, ain't ya the final boss who's sitting on the throne in the innermost room of a castle!?"

"There's no castle, nor am I sitting on a throne ~no. Frau is right now simply standing on a plain ~nano. Okay, that wins me the argument ~no."

"Guuh..."

It was almost at the level of a quarrel between kids, but Lepard faltered as he didn't find any words to return to her.

"Fuhahahaha! Foolish Hero!"

"You bitch...you're definitely messin' with me!"

"I'm no bitch, I'm a little girl ~nano."

Lepard gave up as he realized that he couldn't win with words. He sensed that he would likely be one-sidedly talked down if things were to continue like this, no matter how much he tried to struggle.

"What should I do then?"

"Frau, if you ain't listening to me that you should come back with Renya, I have an idea of my own as well."

"Oh hero, let's hear it. What kind of idea do thou have?"

"Since ancient times it's always been a tradition to spank brats that don't listen to what you tell 'em!"

Given that he had gone out to hunt as light amusement, Lepard hadn't armed himself decently. It's not like he brought his hero equipment with him, and what he was wearing on both arms were simple leather gauntlets, but still, once he clenched his fists tightly, putting strength into them, a slow swaying similar to a heat haze rose up from them.

"If you push me this far, you ain't getting away with just your ass though!"

"What exactly is that thou plan to do?" Frau calmly asked Lepard who had started to shorten the distance between them while leaking murderous intent.

"Well, that's of course..." Just as he said so, Lepard vanished out of Frau's visual field.

When Frau realized that he had slipped out of her sight by rushing while slightly shifting his focal point, Lepard was already ready to attack Frau from diagonally to the right front from her point of view.

"...I'll beat you black and blue until you apologize in tears!"

The aim of his fist, which he had launched with such a force and speed that it released a shock wave into the vicinity, was Frau's face.

Due to Lepard's blow, which lacked any mercy towards his opponent being a little girl, the surrounding soldiers wondered what would happen afterwards if he went through with it, but from Lepard's point of view, he had no choice but to go for that place. After all, his opponent possessed a fairly small body compared to him. If he tried to hit any place other than her face, the damage would be too low as he would need to twist his body into an unreasonable posture.

"As expected of you, Lepard. Considering just the battle aspects among the heroes, you're the hero ranking first or second ~nano." Frau said without trying to block or dodge the approaching fist. Her eyes were fixedly pointed at Lepard himself, and not his fist. "But, you're still naive ~no."

Frau pointed her left hand's thumb somewhere with a jerk without averting her eyes from him.

Being in the middle of his blow, Lepard was about to go through with his attack, judging that this had nothing to do with him, but being bothered by Frau's strangely cocky attitude for some reason, he ended up glancing in the direction Frau pointed, despite averting one's eyes from the opponent in the middle of combat originally being a fatal mistake for a warrior.

"Whaa-!?"

His fist that was about to land on Frau's face was stopped by Lepard himself, a hair's breadth away from hitting Frau. The attack's aftermath caused Frau's forelocks to sway, but Frau didn't move while maintaining a daring smile.

"Do you know who that is ~no?"

Lepard couldn't reply to Frau who let a low, suppressed laughter slip.

The one at the end of his look was Kaede, who was lifted up while entangled by something thin that swayed lightly as it extended from the ground, while still in her shrine maiden's garb.

As far as he could see, her clothes weren't disheveled, but Kaede, who hung there limply, didn't seem to be conscious.

"Frau, you lil' bitch...what did ya do to Kaede!?"

"Kukukuku. Hero, thou believe that's the proper attitude to take when asking someone about something ~nano? Pay attention to your attitude and way of speaking ~no. Frau doesn't know what will happen to Kaede...if I give the order ~no."

Behind Lepard who ground his teeth, all of Klinge's soldiers, who had remained on standby to not let Lepard get away just in case, revealed dejected expressions. Certainly, taking hostages was an effective method, but with this Frau was heading straight down the path of a villain, and they, who were her subordinates, had become the cast supporting Villain No. 1. Even they didn't have the slightest intention to act like champions of justice, but the feeling that she had gone too far with this was strong among them.

However, Frau apparently didn't understand the feelings of those soldiers. She turned over the hem of her robe with a thud, and loudly declared towards Lepard, who stood stock still in front of her, "Now then, hero! Let's first begin from <Please tell me, Frau-sama> ~no!"

"Tsk...p-p-...please tell me, Frau...-sama." Lepard obediently followed Frau's demand, seemingly having grasped that he couldn't act too imprudently now that his lover had been taken hostage.

Of course, Lepard didn't believe that Frau would do anything excessive to Kaede, but at the same time he understood that he also didn't know what she would actually do, even if it wasn't anything excessive.

"Too quiet ~no! Oh well, Frau is a merciful person, so I can tell you what you want to know ~no." Frau said while patting Lepard's fist, which was trembling while strongly clenched, with her palm.

"That's overeating ~nano!"

"...Pardon?"

"She finally got smashed after eating sweets and drinking large quantities of beverage filled with plenty of alcohol ~no. Frau was slightly startled as well ~no. Sure, Frau had planned to make Kaede drunk and use her against you as a trump card for the anti-Lepard battle, but I definitely hadn't expected for her to continue eating until she would get smashed ~no..."

Frau had schemed to get Kaede drunk by slowly mixing alcohol into the provided sweets and black tea, but because Kaede's food consumption and consumption speed went far beyond Frau's expectations, Kaede went beyond getting drunk, and got smashed instead. Frau thought that one would likely notice it at some point, but since Kaede ended up smashed without having actually realized it, Frau accepted it as inevitable.

Frau came up with a change of her plan, and even mobilized Putry-chan to transport Kaede who had become dead drunk while faintly smiling.

"That's why there was no other option but to handle it like this ~no."

"You...that's really dirty...to incite Kaede to get drunk."

Behind Lepard who muttered that while trembling, Klinge's soldiers looked at Frau from the side while nodding their heads, but Frau made them shut up with a sidelong glance.

"Now then, hero! Surrender to me if thou care about Kaede's safety ~no!"

"Are you the devil!? To begin with, what do you plan to do with Kaede? It'll turn into a major problem if you do anything bad, you know!? After all is said and done, Kaede is a high-ranking shrine maiden among the beastmen!"

Unlike the hero, Kaede wasn't a combat personnel as a shrine maiden. If it was Lepard, it was possible to explain it away almost completely by calling it training or a somewhat rough treatment because of his habitual bad behavior, but those excuses wouldn't work in regards to Kaede. Since

she was a person with a fairly high standing, it might very likely develop into a problem between the races which would be bigger than a cross-national issue, just as Lepard said.

"We won't inflict any harm on her ~no."

Frau's reply left her mouth very naturally. It was an answer that anyone present would consider as reasonable. However, with a reply like that, Kaede wouldn't have any value as hostage.

Preceding Lepard who was about to retort at that point, Frau uttered something outrageous, "For starters, we will take off her clothes ~no."

"Take off her clothes!?"

Frau dispassionately continued speaking to Lepard, who couldn't believe his words, "And then we will toss her into the pond where Putry-chan lives ~no."

"What the hell is Putry!? Are possibly talking about that tentacle holding Kaede's body!?"

"It'll be fine. There won't be any danger to her life. Moreover, she might be able to go to heaven ~no." Once Frau cracked a smile, sweat started to appear in drops on Lepard's forehead.

'Sure, it's not the kind of harm that would damage her body. However, it's pretty much obvious that she'll be treated in a way that would make bodily harm look like the still better option. Furthermore, the other party is Frau. If she says she will do something, you can expect her to carry it out almost definitely. And, if she really puts it into practice, there's no guarantee that Kaede will come back to me safely.

"Well then, hero! If thou want me to return Kaede safely..."

"I got it! I will do as you say, so please let go of her!"

If the opponent were the demon king, there would have been no way for Lepard to throw away his pride as hero, and he might have possibly abandoned Kaede.

However, the other party was the fairy maid of Renya's place, albeit looking demon kingish at the moment. Lepard decided that he should secure the safety of Kaede's body by bending his will here.

The soldiers of Klinge, who saw Lepard go down on his knees in a crestfallen manner, all soundlessly thought, 'Our Head Maid is scary.'