

"I understand. I suppose I worried unnecessarily." (Therese)

"Umm...it's not like it has already been deci..." (Erwin)

"Eeeehh! Am I disqualified as Erwin-sama's wife?" (Lea)

Did he feel ashamed?

Lea asked for Erw's true intentions with tears in her eyes as he didn't immediately confirm that he would take her as wife.

"No! That's not what I was saying..." (Erwin)

As he was apparently caught totally off-guard by her crying, Erw reflexively faltered. Certainly, a woman's tears are also difficult to handle for me, as someone with lacking experience.

"Erw, you even went on dates with her, and now you're turning her down!?" (Ina)

"Yeah! Don't you feel sorry for Lea?" (Luise)

Next Erw was harshly rebuked by Ina and Luise, who have been his friends for a long time now.

"It's not that I'm not considering it, it's just that I thought how much of a hassle the various preparations are going to be when it comes to marrying."

Erw objects that he simply hesitates because he can't tell her to marry him so easily.

"I see, then it's fine."

"Those are wonderful news, right Lea?"

"Yes!"

And that settled Erw's second wife after he was cornered into making a promise to Lea with Luise and Ina apparently having been her accomplices from the very start.

Just when I thought that I had a *deja vu*...as it was a scene I had seen somewhere before, I recalled that something similar happened to me as well.

"I have to write a letter to Mom and Dad."

"Various preparations have to be handled before the ceremony."

"Umm...the shortest schedule is..."

"You know...even without hurrying so much..."

However, Erw really is a man who doesn't learn.

To believe that he'd have a grace period after having agreed to the marriage even though he had me as an example...

As long as nothing extraordinary happens, she will continue to push the issue on her own accord so

Given that the reasons are mostly within the range of what one can imagine, I don't really need to explain it at this point, but if I were to meet with all of them, my day would need to have 48 hours. Hence it has taken the shape of me leaving most of them to Roderich, only meeting a selected few myself.

The people allowed to meet me without an appointment are Margrave Breithilde, Burkhart-san, Doushi, and the highest ranks among the Kingdom's leaders.

『Milord, while you listen for an hour to stupid nonsense, the public works through magic would rest...』

Since most of them seem to be worthless matters according to Roderich, I make sure to not meet those folks as much as possible.

"He is kicking up a fuss in front of the mansion, but he has actually introduced himself as Baron Legat-sama..."

"Even if the person is a noble, no appointment still means no-go, though..."

Having said that, it's rare for nobles to personally show up in front of the mansion without appointment.

That's probably the reason why the guard captain has come here to request me to make a decision.

"So, what kind of business does he have with me?"

"That's the problem...it looks like it's something he wants to personally discuss with you..."

"Can't be helped then, I guess."

I go to our mansion's front gate by myself.

Upon arriving there, I spot a young man who appears to truly be a noble, going by his appearance. He looks to be around twenty years old.

"Earl Baumeister-dono?"

"Correct, but isn't this a method going against etiquette?"

Baron Legat's current action is against the rules of nobility. I give him a warning about that part.

"I think so, but if I can have you accept my proposal, you can expect an increased development of the Earl Baumeister House."

"Let's hear that proposal or whatever of yours?"

"Gladly, future-father-in-law."

"Huh? Future-father-in-law?"

I have a bad feeling about this, but Baron Legat begins to talk about his suggestion on how to make

the Baumeister House grow without any break.

"It looks like your noble wives have become pregnant, so allow me to congratulate you on that. If a daughter is born...no, if it's that number of wives, at least a single girl should definitely be born. Would you allow me, Baron Legat, to take one of your future daughters as wife? In such a case, the relationship between the Baumeister House and the Legat House will be strengthened..."

I had expected it as a possibility, but for him to actually request to marry one of the children who are still in the bellies of my wives...

Moreover, at the time when a possible daughter reaches adulthood, this Baron here will be a middle-aged guy in the middle of his thirties.

Even on a personal level, I'd like to be spared from a son-in-law who's older than me.

At the very least, I want to refuse this Baron who seems stupid and frivolous.

"Father-in-law I will definitely bring happiness to the daughter and mother-in-law."

"Don't ever show your face here agaaaain!!"

Flipping out in an instant, I blew away Baron Legat with wind magic up to the main street of Baulburg.

He collapses in the middle of the street after fainting.

"Don't allow that moron to ever bother us again! Submit a request to Roderich to draw up a letter of breaking off all relations with his family!"

"Yes, it will happen at once, milord!!"

Normally it would be commonplace to make such a request through someone as messenger, but Baron Legat has tried to get the upper hand by negotiating personally.

Of course he just offended me with his shallow thinking.

To deal with such rule-breaking nobles, you can use the format of cutting off any relations.

It's a system where you send a letter, stating 『For this and that reason we will never associate with your house again』. It's rarely put to use, but accordingly its effect is tremendous.

"Man...in just what world would you find a guy speaking about wanting to marry a girl who's still in the womb of her mother..."

When I'm complaining while looking at the fainted Baron Legat, I see someone speaking with the gatekeeper.

On a close look, it's a beautiful girl who's slightly younger than us.

"I hear Erwin-sama is staying at this mansion..."

"That's certainly true, but it's impossible to meet with Erwin-sama without an appointment."

"But, I don't have much time left anymore."

Since she's mentioning Erwin, it's clear that she wants to meet with Erw.

I don't know what kind of business she got with him, but it appears to be quite urgent.

After all she hasn't paid any attention to the noble who has landed and fainted right next to her.

"It doesn't matter! Please get an appointment first. Erwin-sama is a busy person."

Normally that would be true, but today Erw unfortunately got plenty of free time. While at it, I'm starting to get very curious about the relationship between her and Erw. Is she possibly a girl he picked up in the past?

"Hey, can I ask you something?"

"Milord?"

"Do you happen to be Earl Baumeister-sama, Erwin-sama's lord?"

"Indeed, but what is the relationship between Erw and you?"

"I'm his childhood friend."

"(Erw, I will never forgive you...)"

I decide to allow this girl to enter the mansion on my authority as lord.

Why, you ask?

Because of my deep kindness urging me to allow old childhood friends to meet...

As if.

It's for the sake of thoroughly investigating when he got to know such a beautiful girl, of course.

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"Erw, I'm disappointed in you."

"What's it all of a sudden...huh!? Anna?"

"Yes! It's been a while, Erwin-sama." (Anna)

I led the girl to the courtyard, and it looks like she's really Erw's childhood friend.

They immediately start to speak like old, close friends. At this point in time, Erw is as guilty as charged in my mind.

His crime is a considerably heavy one.

"How did you get you all the way here all of a sudden?" (Erwin)

"I used long-distance carriages with the money I owned." (Anna)

"It must have been hard on you." (Erwin)

Erw's home lies in the western part of the Kingdom. To come to the Baumeister Earldom, she had to pass through Breitburg.

If one boards a magic airship, it won't take even a week, but if it's a long-distance carriage, which isn't as expensive, it'll take more than a month.

Seeing how Anna took all that upon herself for the sake of meeting with Erw, she's an amazing girl.

In my mind Erw has been flagged as a criminal deserving a life imprisonment.

I mean, a beautiful girl going this far to meet with me...probably doesn't exist, I think.

"Erw, unforgivable."

"Wend, since I'm busy with listening to Anna about her circumstances, I'd like you to wait a bit longer with your usual spasms."

My verbal attack is easily avoided by Erw. Within my mind Erw has just qualified for lifelong slave labor as a criminal.

"Whaaaaaat!! How cheeky for the likes of you! I didn't hear anything about you having a childhood friend!" (Wendelin)

"Because you'd have become pitiable if I had told you about her?" (Erwin)

"Now listen, even though you're not that much different from me as the fifth son of a poor noble, why do you have a beautiful girl as a childhood friend!? I didn't have one, you know!?"

I didn't even have a male childhood friend!

While thinking back on my long life as a loner, I realize that I'm simply cursed by the God of Fate.

"Well, let me tell you about my circumstances then..."

Sure, I will set aside this sadness and anger for later.

I'm Earl Baumeister. I must at least show as much generosity as listening to a situation calmly.

"It's not such a complicated story, though."

Because he was the fifth son, Erw had gone through a series of hardships by being exploited and harassed by his elder brothers at home.

The only ones treating him normally were the commoner children.

"You were surpassing me on that point." (Wendelin)

"Wendelin, be quiet and listen to his story."

"Okay..." (Wendelin)

For some reason I ended up getting scolded by Therese. I focus on listening to Erw's story.

The one closest to him among those commoner children was Anna, the third daughter of the owner of the only shop existing in the territory.

In other words, this beautiful girl here.

"It's a story you hear often. But, you never told us until now."

"I'm a man who cast away his past."

It's not that Erwin is just trying to show off. If it's the daughter of the local store, and even if it's the third daughter, Erw would have been forced to live in that territory after marrying her. She's in a position where she couldn't refuse her father if she were to be told by him to marry into some family.

"I was someone who would leave the territory. It was impossible for me to take Anna with me. It'd likely just piss off my old man and Anna's father. What could I have done back then when I was only twelve years old? I had my hands full with surviving by myself. Rather than that, Anna, didn't you marry Becker, the second son of the village headman?" (Erwin)

Erw has already attained the social standing of being a retainer of the Earl Baumeister House. He sternly questioned Anna who had apparently run away from her birthplace on her own accord.

"That marriage didn't take place..."

Even though the marriage was decided by both parents, despite them being commoners, there are many cases where such arrangements are canceled for various reasons. As a marriage is ultimately something between both families, the opinion of the family heads plays a big role in this. If a modern Japanese learned of the current situation in this world, they might laugh at it for being too formal and classical. However, that's how this world works. It's impossible to have the freedom to not marry or not give birth to children, as it exists in modern Japan, readily accepted over here. The fear of a family line dying out doesn't exist in this world.

"Didn't take place?"

"Yes, it looks like Lila-onee-sama will marry him instead."

"Why did that happen?"

"That's...Geltz-sama, the successor of the village headman, has died from illness..."

"That Geltz died...?"

Hearing that an acquaintance has died, Erw's expression becomes slightly gloomy. However, it's not a face that you'd call sad. Because he was the heir of the village headman, he had probably stuck close to Erw's elder brothers. He might have been a nasty guy for Erw.

"I'm not really all that sad about it. So, Becker has become the new heir in a hurry, huh...?"

"Yes, as such it turned into a talk about my social standing as the third daughter..."

Her elder sister, who's higher in the ranking, will become the wife of the successor of the village headman's family.

It's something that often happens in rural territories.