

Because of her all too sudden entry, Renya couldn't avert his eyes or look down, which would be the least problematic conduct in this situation. In other words, the outcome was him fixedly staring at the archduchess' body which was on full display with her dauntedly posing in the nude, an action anyone would consider questionable for a woman.

As for impressions, you could somehow sum it up with the word, "earth-shattering." Renya had also harbored a similar impression back when he met her before, but either way, right now his mind was filled with the thought that the archduchess, who didn't hide anything, was earth-shattering.

It wasn't as though she was fat in any way. However, Renya couldn't say anything due to the intensity of the archduchess' fleshiness which likely overpowered Rona by leaps and bounds. She possessed a beauty barely scraping the dangerous line of possibly degenerating into an indecent, comical figure if she were to gain a little bit more unnecessary weight at some part.

Moreover, Renya was astonished by the fact that there were no drooping parts to be found on her body which was endowed with such a quantity of mass. You could truly call it the finest masterpiece which conquered gravity with the natural capabilities of a human body.

But then again, Renya didn't have a clue whether the people of this world would be able to understand the concept of gravity even if he were to explain it to them.

As he had been using the bath, it naturally took the form of Renya looking up at the archduchess who was standing imposingly at the washing place, and that also resulted in the archduchess' body having even more of an impact.

The archduchess flashed a faint smile of triumph due to Renya having frozen with his look still being pointed at her, unable to speak thanks to his blank amazement. For an instant, Renya was about to get pissed off, thinking that she might make fun of him, but immediately noticing that the archduchess' eyes weren't pointed in his direction, he tried to follow her line of sight, wondering what she might have seen to reveal a smile, and was immediately hit by a strange sensation.

He had been feeling the warmth of the hot spring water transmitted through the half of his body submerged in the bath, but the body half above the water surface started to feel an intense chill. Once Renya timidly looked in the direction of the source of that chill which he could feel from his side, he instinctively pulled back while splashing water around due to the presence he found there.

A face completely lacking any expression, with the eyes widely open. Even though the long, wet, blond hair had released a bewitching sex appeal until just moments ago, it was now repelling the light from the ceiling, possessing a metallic coldness like icy wires. The small, cute lips endlessly continued murmuring something with such a low voice that it was barely audible, but Renya had absolutely no clue what she was saying.

While calming his racing heart, which was throbbing for a completely different reason than just several minutes ago, by placing his hand on it, Renya estimated that her murmuring seemed to be elvish, which Croire hadn't used overly much recently, and changed his mind to elvish. Immediately following, the sounds, which he had been hearing, rushed at him as words bearing a meaning - a meaning that terrified Renya.

"Crush kill burn tear beat break pierce stab split gouge torment strike kick whittle slice cut crush

kill burn tear beat break pierce stab split gouge torment strike kick whittle slice cut crush kill burn
tear beat break pierce stab split gouge torment strike kick whittle slice cut kill burn tear beat break
pierce stab split gouge torment strike kick whittle slice cut kill burn tear beat break pierce stab split
gouge torment strike kick whittle slice cut kill burn tear beat break pierce stab split gouge torment
strike kick whittle slice cut kill burn tear beat break pierce stab split gouge torment strike kick
whittle slice cut cut cut kill kill..."

Forgetting even the warmth of the hot water, Renya shuddered, believing that he was probably going to die here.

While scattering such intense pressure into her vicinity that it caused Renya, who had not once felt such a heavy pressure since coming to this world, to tremble, Croire stood up from the bath, swaying like a snake. Her elven, naked wet body was fairytale-like within the faint light, but right now Renya didn't have the leeway to admire it.

Behind Renya, who was pondering whether he should somehow try to do something about this or simply turn tail and run away from here, the archduchess looked at Croire, who was standing in the bath, and laughed scornfully while still boldly standing at the washing place.

"If you don't have any bulgings~ the water drainage must be nice, and on top of~ that, drying should be easier too, right~?"

"Is it fine for me to take this as your last will, human!?"

Her mana, which swelled up explosively, turned into physical pressure, causing the surface of the bath to violently stir. As the hot water's surface was splashing and billowing, although it was nothing capable of washing his body away, Renya began to secretly move deeper into the bath, trying to get as much distance from Croire as possible, while protecting his eyes so that no hot spring water would enter them, seemingly having learned from his previous experiences.

"You have pissed me off. That crime deserves certain death."

"Oh my, oh my~ I wonder, is that an inferiority complex of someone not possessing what others have~?"

Even though she was probably sensing the heavy mana pressure and anger thrown at her, the composure didn't vanish from the archduchess' expression and complexion.



Wondering whether she might be hiding some kind of secret weapon, Renya observed the situation while using a bucket that had been tossed his way as a cover, but the archduchess was visibly nude, and it didn't seem as if there was any place allowing her to conceal something. But then again, since Renya had heard that there were countless places to hide something on a woman's body, he knew that he couldn't unconditionally trust his own eyes, but either way, even if the archduchess had some kind of method at hand, it shouldn't be anything suitable to be deployed in a bathroom.

Even while believing that it might be a waste of breath, Renya called out to the two for the time being, "Can't you guys at least enter a bath quietly? Or rather, this is the men's bath. If you burn to have a battle, go back to the women's bath."

Renya thought that it was a truly decent remonstrance considering his current situation, but the reply only made it obvious to Renya that he had wasted his time pointlessly.

"Renya, please stay silent and watch. This is a place where I can't pull back as an elf."

"It's the duty of a senior to train~ lasses who haven't even given birth yet~"

Of course, even Renya hadn't expected at all that the situation would come under control by them obediently accepting his remonstrance. However, he had hoped to gain a little bit of time.

Because of the huge amount of mana gushing out of Croire's body, the area around her was getting damaged. He needed that time to grasp just what the archduchess, who didn't even budge within that violent mana wind, was planning to do.

'Her own weight, and her leg strength, huh? Come to think of it, she's the mother of Shion. If I consider the aspect of physical strength, it wouldn't be odd even if she were to possess power at the same level or beyond that of Shion. As for her own weight, I think it's needless to say, but it's impossible for a body boasting that much volume to be light. Still, her strength and sense of balance to keep standing in the face of that devastating mana pressure on top of the wet, slippery stone floor is nothing to scoff at,' Renya thought in astonishment.

"In other words, it means she's confident that she can somehow handle it at this combat distance, even if Croire takes some lethal action."

The probability that Croire would use sorcery indiscriminately, swallowing up everything on a wide range, was exceedingly low. After all, such a spell would naturally involve Renya, who was close to her. In such a case, it was possible to predict that the spell used by Croire would have an effect limited to a single target.

If it was that kind of spell, it wouldn't be all that difficult to knock out the caster, as long as one had the leg strength to instantly close the distance without misreading the moment the spell was activated.

"In short, she's saying she's confident in battle because she isn't a mere figurehead archduchess."

Renya gazed at the two, who remained in a deadlock as they glared at each other, while being

submerged in the hot water up to his shoulders, asking himself what he should do.

"The quickest and easiest methods would be to either escape or to blow both away. However, if I chose either of these methods, I wouldn't be able to avoid damaging the bath house itself.

Leaving aside the archduchess, he felt like even just the aftermath would be rather tremendous if he were to carry out an attack capable of knocking out Croire. And if he ran away, Croire wouldn't need to worry about involving Renya anymore, losing all restraints in the process, and could deploy a wide-area spell without any need for hesitation.

A plan ranking second best would be to side with one of them, and knock out the other together. Since a two vs. one would be a very advantageous situation for the inferior side, it'd likely be possible to wrap this up without much damage to the building, but it'd have the demerit of creating hard feelings with the party he didn't support.

He also tried considering calling the others, but immediately rejected that idea. Currently there was no one in Klinge who would be able to stop the archduchess with words, and even if there was someone, who could stop Croire by overpowering her, this would definitely lead to the destruction of the building.

"I'm at a loss..."

It'd be a different matter altogether if he were to be okay with causing damage, but Renya didn't want to break the facility, which Kurz, Grün, Keith and his men had built with utmost effort, without it having been in use much yet. While pondering what he should do, Renya covered his shoulders with the bath's water.

The white, cloudy hot spring water, said to be good for the skin, somewhat felt slimy on Renya's skin, causing Renya to suddenly realize, 'Come to think of it, hot springs for beautiful skin are often alkaline baths, aren't they?' Once he considered it like that, he could also understand the pain that assailed his eyes when water came in contact with them earlier.

"The hot spring water that has gushed in Klinge very likely contains a very strong alkalinity. Because of its effect of dissolving old keratin, it's known as hot water for beautiful skin, but on the other hand, it's also known to cause a strong stimulus on the skin and mucous membranes. Its nature of breaking proteins apart is actually quite dangerous.

There existed cases where strong alkalinity was said to be more dangerous than a strong acidity. Renya decided to order Frau to add an installation that would provide normal water at the washing place after this. Going by the feeling from actually having taken a bath himself, the alkalinity wasn't so strong that it would have an immediate effect on the human body, but there were also people who should wipe their bodies ahead of time since it wasn't quite clear what effect it would have if they allowed a weak alkalinity to come in contact with their skin for an extended period of time.

Putting off those thoughts for later, Renya called out to Croire and the archduchess, who were still scowling at each other, in order to realize the method to suppress them, which he had somehow managed to come up with, while soaking his hands in the hot spring water.

"Both of you, if you don't give it a rest already, I will use force."

"Renya, please be quiet. I can't forgive this old hag who got in our way even though we had a good mood going at long last."

"Fufufu...Margrave Kunugi is~ going to have a blast with my Shion~ by having a wet making out session with her in the bath later~. There won't be any turns for a washboard elf~."

'What's with that way of description?' While wondering about that, Renya scooped up some of the bath's water, albeit not much, with his palms.

"I warned you, okay? <Water Sphere>."

The bath water scooped up by Renya turned into two bullets, and headed for the faces of the archduchess and Croire. However, the archduchess slapped it down with a wave of her hand, and Croire scattered it apart with a single sweep of the mana gushing out of her body.

"Ah!?"

The one raising her voice was the archduchess. Her ability to repel the water bullet, which came at her with a considerable speed, was something that could be expected of her, but the broken water bullet turned into a fine mist, spraying against her face. Several drops got into her eyes. Although it was just a small amount, the stimulation assailed her eyes, causing the archduchess to stagger as she reflexively covered her face.

Croire tried to attack her after identifying it as a good chance, but Renya's comment stopped her in her tracks.

"Croire, above."

"Pardon?"

Reflexively looking upwards as told, Croire noticed the sphere, which was filled to the brim with a large quantity of hot spring water, hovering above her head. For an instant she was unable to comprehend, but after a second, Croire understood that it was the bath's water gathered above her head with Renya's <Manipulation>. She realized that the first water bullet served as a restraint and decoy, and moreover, that her next action wouldn't be in time because she mowed down the decoy with her mana.

"Renya!?"

"Too late."

Once he released his constraint through <Manipulation>, the large amount of bath water that had been floating in the air poured down on the archduchess and Croire from above. The water hit Croire directly into the face as she had looked up. The archduchess, who had been rubbing her eyes while holding her face as a small quantity of water got into her eyes at the beginning, got somewhat diagonally hit by the water since she was in the middle of lifting her teary face after perceiving the presence of the falling water. Both screamed at the same time.

""My eyes!? My eyeees!?"

The archduchess, who had been at the washing place, and Croire, who was washed out of the bath due to the pressure of the falling water despite being at the bath's edge, were both suffering as they covered their faces with their palms. Their appearance how they rolled around was nothing but comical, being very far from having any sex appeal.

If she were to calm down and think it over, Croire would realize that she just needed to wash her face with water from water sorcery, but because her eyes were assailed by pain, she was apparently unable to make a calm judgment as she cried out like that.

While sighing, Renya poured water created by sorcery into a bucket that had been washed over in his direction as he looked towards the entrance of the bathroom. Renya had perceived it since a little while ago now how several presences had gathered there.

"What are you guys doing there?"

The ones who opened the entrance door very slightly and peeked inside through the gap were Shion, Rona, and Kilie.

"We came after mother...err, Her Majesty, the Archduchess to stop her, but..."

"Just as we were about to rush in, we couldn't, and thus waited to see how things develop."

"Renya-san...you sure have a nice body, don't you? Is it okay for me to take a picture with a sorcery tool for recording?"

A bucket filled with plenty of water directly hit Kilie's face as soon as she voiced out the last comment. Of course it had been thrown by Renya. Kilie's body slowly crumbled down due to the impact of the full bucket in addition to the strength of the throw.

The entrance door was thrown open because Shion and Rona, who were surprised by the water splashing around due to the impact, moved in order to dodge the water. Thanks to that, Renya perceived that their clothes had become quite slovenly. It looked like both had originally been taking a bath in the women's bath, but hurriedly chased after the archduchess who had suddenly rushed out after learning that Renya was in the men's bath.

"...You will catch a cold, so warm yourself up."

"R-Really? I-If you say so, Renya. P-Please excuse me then..."

Shion, who had apparently misunderstood Renya's concern as acknowledgment for mixed bathing, started to get rid of her clothes in the dressing room. Rona looked back and forth between Renya and Shion, flustered.

Renya was about to correct that misunderstanding, but seeing the archduchess and Croire still rolling around in the nude, he reconsidered. In the present condition, where had ended up seeing this, he somehow felt the urge to do something similar to getting rid of a bad aftertaste.

'While at it, I'd like to have some personnel to request the to clean up Croire and the archduchess who will likely continue rolling around until they run out of strength.

"Renya, is it really alright?"

"Do as you please. However, if you're going to enter, cover your body with a cloth or something. And, if you can get in contact with her, tell Frau to prepare normal hot water to rinse the body when stepping out of the bath. As you can see, this hot spring water seems to be slightly too stimulating."

Once Renya jerked his chin in the direction of the two rolling around on the floor, Rona lightly shook her head after seeing that, and confirmed Renya's request.

