



The spell, which Renya used for the sake of extinguishing the fire caused by Az to secure a landing spot for Dra-kun, after being thoroughly cautioned about its power in advance, covered a range going slightly beyond the area set on fire by Az despite all the warnings. Neither Renya himself nor Az, as an expert looking at it from the side, knew whether it was an issue with the technique or Renya's personality, but it was pretty obvious that Renya sucked at using spells which had their firepower dampened.

'Even so, we're very likely lucky that things finished at Renya only cooling the area ignited by me, and freezing some of the trees around it,' Az judged.

Although Az had secured a fairly big area, Dra-kun's body filled a big part of its space when he slowly touched down. Renya thought that the room might be slightly too small to provide bedding for seven people. He deliberated whether he should expand the area a bit, but gave up on it. It's because it could take a bad turn, resulting in them losing a camping ground, if he burned the area too much, leaving freezing totally out of the quotation.

While persuading himself that they'd just need to bear with it for one night anyway, Renya retrieved a tent, which had been rolled up to make it small, from his inventory.

"Hey...what's that?"

Due to the low, subdued voice he could hear from behind, Renya, who had taken out their luggage, reflexively stopped working, lowering his eyes at an object lying nearby. Its outward appearance was that of a plain, folded tent. However, for some reason a note was attached to the rope tying it up. "Exclusively for married couples" was written on it in red letters.

Renya couldn't help but get a bad feeling about this. It actually woke the urge in him to stop unwrapping the tent any further. However, with various goods being stuffed into his inventory, it wasn't as if Renya had gone as far as bringing a spare tent with him. If he were to give up on using one of the tents now, it'd cause a situation where some members of their group wouldn't be able to sleep in a tent.

While sensing the intense gaze of Az on his back, Renya felt regret over not having checked his luggage a bit stricter if he had known that things would turn out like this. Still, going with the approach that he couldn't help it at this point either way, he untied the rope, immediately setting up the tent. Once it was finished, it was no more than an ordinary tent.

Quizzically in Renya's case, and dubiously in Az's case, who had gotten close to Renya without him noticing, both peered into the tent. It was definitely a tent that would feel somewhat too cramped to designate it to be for two people. However, it wasn't as small that two people wouldn't be able to enter without clinging to each other tightly. It gave one the impression that they might at most touch each other's bodies if they were to stir around a bit. Even if he felt a resistance towards calling it to be catered towards a married couple, it wasn't anything justifying a scolding.

As this seemed to be unexpected for Az, he looked at Renya with a complicated expression, a mix of apology and awkwardness. Renya only shrugged at that.

Renya, who tried to open the next tent thinking that such anticlimactic things occasionally happened as well, suddenly had small letters appear in his visual field.

<Information: Appraisal Function - Confirmed effects: 「Soundproof」, 「Stamina Increase」, 「Concealment」, and 「Deodorization」. These effects will be triggered upon detection of breach of a fixed threshold for each effect.>

Once his sight went back to normal with him being startled, he realized that the appraisal target had doubtlessly been the tent he had set up moments ago. Even when he tried using appraisal on his volition, believing that something might have gone wrong since it had triggered on its own, he was shown the same line of text.

Renya spontaneously covered his face with his left hand baffled by the opportune timing of appraisal's invocation, but it was too late. Next to him, Az had fully guessed that Renya had noticed something from his expression and his re-examination of the tent.

"Renya, did you grasp something? Won't you try telling me what you noticed?"

Renya lacked the words to return to Az who was pressing him for an answer with a smile. The effects applied to the tent were way too blunt. It was plain as day what purpose all those effects had.

As for the offender, there was really only one person that came to mind here. With Emil being absent right now, the only capable of casting so many effects on the tent was Frau, and no one else. As for the person in question, she swiftly climbed on Dra-kun's back as soon as her deed came to light, watching over the progress of the situation, ready to flee at any moment.

Even while Renya thought, "That damned, ill-minded cat," Frau wasn't in the reach of his hands, and she was too skilled to be caught with sorcery. Only Liaris alone stood still, not understanding what was going on. The other party members somewhat guessed from the atmosphere that Frau had done something bad once again, and looked up at Frau on Dra-kun's back from the side.

"Come on, please tell me Renya, just what's wrong with this tent?"

"N-Nothing."

Having determined that he'd likely receive no help from anywhere, Renya decided to pretend ignorance.

'It might seem unnatural and fishy, but there's no other path I can take here. For sure it's absolutely impossible to be completely honest here, and tell him that they can fuck like rabbits as it's a tent with tricks set up so that nothing will leak outside.

"Your attitude is far too shady for it to be nothing. It's not good to keep secrets. Spit it out."

Probably convinced by now that something was wrong, Az closed the distance between them by taking a step forward, causing Renya to retreat the same distance. It wasn't as if Renya himself had perpetrated anything. However, considering their conversation before the departure, it was mostly decided that Az would place the responsibility on Renya, even if he might know that all of it had

been done by Frau.

"Hurry up, Renya. You know that resistance is futile."

"It's really nothing. At the very least nothing will happen if you don't do anything."

Renya's remark, which indirectly hinted at something through a change in pronunciation and emphasis, caused Az to get far more flustered than Renya had expected. In the first place, the tent didn't contain any effects that would harm the people staying within. It was merely equipped with a trick that would block the exposure of what was going on inside. As to how to use that function, it had been completely entrusted to the judgment of the tent users.

Once Renya had realized that aspect, it wasn't all that difficult to escape Az's persistent interrogation. When Az was told that everything would depend on Liaris and him, even Az couldn't press Renya for an answer any longer.

Renya smiled as he tapped Az's shoulder who was at a loss of words with an expression that seemed to be somewhat vexed. In reality, it wouldn't be any problem at all, as long as Az and Liaris were to sleep in different tents. However, since things had developed in the direction of them using the same tent going by the flow and atmosphere, Renya decided to entrust the whole situation to its natural flow without saying anything in particular.

'For starters, I think I should catch Frau and tie her up somewhere,' Renya assessed.

There were no particular issues with the tent's effects, but he was almost 100% sure that he could perceive that tent as a trap. That didn't mean that it was furnished with some kind of contrivance. The problem was the condition to trigger the respective effects cast on the tent, namely, the detection of the number of targets for each spell going beyond a threshold. The spell activation would be passed on to the enchanter.

If something were to "start" inside the tent, Frau would learn of it through the activation of the spells.

'In other words, this tent...!' Renya glared at the tent he had just set up in annoyance, '...isn't a place offered to Liaris and Az for something to happen, but a trap created by Frau for the sake of doing something by luring the two into it.'

As for what Frau was planning to do here, Renya didn't believe that he really wanted to know. He really didn't want to know, but Az and Liaris were Renya's friends. Renya believed that he had to prevent something like video recordings of what the two were doing in bed spreading through illegal channels in Klinge before it actually took place.

"It's just for my own, private entertainment ~nano!"

No matter how much Frau was a silky outside regular norms, she had no means to escape Renya once he got serious. Renya swiftly wrapped her up in a bamboo mat without listening to any of her protests, and hung it at the branch of a tree close to the camp as if she was a bagworm.

Renya felt like she could get out of it right away if she wanted, but he believed that he had made

clear to Frau what he wanted to tell her with this.

"Good work, Renya." Shion greeted Renya as he was looking up at the result of his work - Frau swaying back and forth without any wind blowing while looking sullen.

Renya wondered why he had to be so exhausted from just camping.

"No kidding. Well, whatever. I'll prepare dinner, and once we've eaten, we'll go to sleep. Most likely we'll need to get up very early tomorrow. No matter what you and I might say, in the end this is still the Miasma Forest."

Since a dragon was with them, the probability of monsters approaching was low. Even if the Miasma Forest was a trove of monsters, not that many monsters capable of dealing with dragons lived in here, and even if they were to approach, their presence would be noticed.

While looking behind Shion, where Croire was struggling after having her hands tied behind her back by Rona for some reason, Renya continued, "We'll leave the watchout duty to Frau for the most part. A fairy that has no particular issue going without sleep is quite handy at such times, isn't she?"

Frau raised her voice in discontent about being treated as an alarm, but Renya heartlessly ignored her.

'If she has a body not needing any sleep, she should rather take a proactive approach and offer to stand watch,' Renya believed.

The matter of it being a fairly savage method, if you just went by the fact that a being with the appearance of a cute fairy was forced to stand watch while hanging down all night long from a tree, didn't even register with Renya as something to be considered.

"To be honest, I couldn't care less about Frau's treatment."

"Shion-ane-sama!?" Frau screamed out in surprise and protest while swinging back and forth, but Shion completely ignored her as well.

As if having something to talk about that was far more important than this, determination dyed Shion's eyes, and yet she let her eyes wander for a faint moment. But, before long she looked straight at Renya, and said, "Renya, tonight...I was wondering where you're going to sleep..."

"Oh, I'll sleep on Dra-kun's back. Considering where we're right now, I'll stand watch as well, just in case."

If it was atop Dra-kun's back with its decent height and unobstructed view, he would likely know if something happened, even when asleep. Once Renya explained so, Shion's shoulders slumped down with her donning a very disappointed look. Just muttering, "I see," she trudged away with a hanging head.

As he was wondering whether she might have prepared a tent for him, Renya noticed at the end of his line of sight how Croire, who had stopped struggling all of a sudden, and Rona, who still pinned

her down, were looking in his direction as if they wanted to tell him something.

"Master, you're too much of a herbivore ~no." Frau said while still swaying back and forth.

Even Renya would notice that her swaying wasn't merely due to her struggling, but that she was actually trying to snap the rope through friction or to break the tree's branch, if she kept swinging back and forth all the time. Of course Renya had foreseen as much, and chosen a sturdy branch and strong rope so that they would endure such attempts.

"If your behavior is too gentlemanly, you will be taken as good-for-nothing ~no."

"Being a good-for-nothing is fine with me. At least in regards to this matter."

"Master, do you possibly have a seminal problem? If you wish, Frau will carefully examine you and apply the necessary treatment ~no."

Renya pondered for a while due to Frau saying weird stuff with a serious face, and then whispered, "Now then...I guess I'll build a bonfire here to keep the area illuminated."

"Eh!? W-Wait a moment, master!? Please stop ~no! You don't need to pile up firewood beneath Frau's feet ~no! A roasted fairy doesn't taste good ~no! ...You've started to say "crack crack" ~no? Eh!? You're serious!? Wait, it's hot! Hoot ~no! Smoooky ~no! I'll apologize so please let me off ~nooo!!"

The firewood seemingly contained some moisture. Once Renya started it with the <Ignition> spell, a weak flame and lots of smoke rose up. The sound of the wood popping, smoke, and blended into all of that, Frau's screaming.

While wondering whether that might lure over all the monsters left in the vicinity, Renya watched over the state of the bonfire after driving this worry out of his mind.

