

## **Chapter 8 - Klimt's Love**

"Bruno! Over there!"

"On it."

"Klimt, you too."

"Leave this one to me."

Two month have passed ever since I entered Twilight of Dawn. At first our activities were focused on the area around the capital which also served as rookie training, but as Bruno and I have mostly familiarized ourselves with party adventuring, we've started to hunt in a monster domain around 200 kilometers away from the capital since yesterday.

This monster domain seems to be not known by many, and furthermore, because it's under the direct control of the Kingdom, despite being a detached territory, it appears to be less troublesome than a monster domain within a noble's territory. That makes sense since the loot from monster domains in noble territories generate tax income for the respective nobles.

As a result, working in a monster domain under the Kingdom's control brings you more benefit while braving the same dangers. For this reason, and also because the monster domains around the capital are fairly crowded, we've come all the way out here.

"Wonderful. This wraps up work for today."

Candy is strict and serious during work, but as soon as the job's done for the day, he always reverts to his usual, playful character.

I wonder, is it alright to describe a person like him as good at changing gears?

"We're going back to Heckiss. Tell us Boltor, where are we going to stay today? You're in charge of the reservation today." Candy-dono asks the sub-leader of our party, Boltor-dono, what inn we're going to use today.

"I decided to go with a new place. It sounds like it's also got a good evaluation."

"New inns are great. I mean they're all clean and sparkly. Alsooo, I feel like I'm going to encounter a new love with a nice man in the unknown inn."

"Whatever."

Since that's the usual routine with Candy-dono and Boltor-dono's conversations, Bruno, I, and the chronically silent Dalton-dono happily listen in on them.

Moreover, Heckiss is the only town among those in the Kingdom's administrative areas that's

situated almost next to a monster domain.

After entering the town, Boltor-dono leads us to the inn where we're going to stay the night, but the town's main street is filled with many adventurers. In other words, adventurers, who felt fed up with the congestion at the monster domains near the capital, have come here. However, since the monsters are strong in the domain over here, only those confident in their skills visit this place. Though I hear that occasionally some adventurers overestimate their abilities and die in the monster domain.

"We've arrived. It's the 『Morning Sun and Adventures』."

"It's a truly fitting name, and the inn itself appears to be fairly decent, too."

"After all there's a naggy guy with us who'd give me no break if I chose a weird inn."

"That's only natural. An inn's quality affects our condition on the next day and thereafter."

While chatting like that, Candy-dono and Boltor-dono enter the inn first, and we follow. As soon as we step inside the 『Morning Sun and Adventures』, which probably has been newly built, the scent of freshly planed wood tickles our noses.

"It's truly brand-new, huh?"

"Excuse me. We're Twilight of Dawn. We've booked two rooms here for tonight." Boltor-dono rings the bell at the unmanned counter, leading to a young man appearing from deeper inside.

Since he doesn't look like the owner, I suppose he's an employee.

"Welcome to 『Morning Sun and Adventures』. We have received your reservation. Allow me to guide you to your rooms at once."

Guided by the young man, we head to the guest rooms on the second floor. The first floor has no guest rooms. You can find the reception there, and a dining room, which also serves as a bar. It looks like we're going to take our meals down there.

The employee gives us a run-down of all that heading to our rooms.

"The owner will come greet you during dinner."

"Understood. Hm——m, sharing a room with young men is dreamy!"

"" ... ""

Of the two rooms, Boltor-dono and Dalton-dono share one room. The other room will be occupied by Candy-dono, Bruno and me.

Such times make me hate the status of being a rookie. I'm pretty sure Bruno is with me on this.

"He mentioned that dinner will be served in the dining room on the first floor, didn't he?"

"That's what he said. Let's go downstairs."



"We've reserved a table."

Once we get down to the first floor, Boltor-dono and Dalton-dono have already grabbed a table for six. As soon as the three of us sit down, a female employee visits our table to take our orders. Since she looks like she's around forty years old, she doesn't really fit the image of a waitress.

The dishes are served ten minutes after ordering. The strong flavoring and the amount is catered towards adventurers, so all of us devour the food delightfully. Since the body counts as an adventurer's capital, all of us make sure to get plenty of nutrients.

Bruno also eats a hearty amount, despite having a slender build.

"Thank you very much for booking rooms at our place today." The landlady comes over to greet us as we're having our meal.

Once I lift my face after stopping eating...

"Uuh!"

"Dear customer, is there anything wrong?"

"It's nothing."

The instant I saw the landlady's face, my heart started to throb! I wonder, what's this throbbing in my chest about?

The landlady looks like she's still around twenty. It's amazing for her to run this inn at such an early age.

She's bundled up her long, black hair which spills down alongside the right side of her chest. Her face is very beautiful, and every single action of hers looks erotic. It's not like she's wearing overly revealing clothes, but my heart feels like it's thumping as soon as I look at her.

"Umm..."

Anyway, I'd love to hear her name as soon as possible!

"Is something the matter, customer?"

"Landlady, could you please tell me your name, if you don't mind? I'm Bruno."

"I'm called Lyra, young magician."

"Oh, so you can tell that I'm a magician?"

"Of course."

Bruno! Even though I was just about to ask for her name myself! Besides, what's with that 『Oh, so you can tell』? Even a child could tell that you and I are magicians, seeing how we're both wearing robes.

Now then, I guess you've also fallen in love with her, Bruno. Anyway, I've got to give her a good first impression by greeting her while emphasizing the part about me being a magician, who are popular among women!

It looks...like I've fallen for Lyra-san as well, huh? Come to think of it...how many times has this happened?

I decided at an age of five to marry a maid in the mansion, who was my first love. The second one was my brother's etiquette teacher, but I gave up on her since she was a wife with children.

...I don't remember how often it has happened, but since I'm an adult, I'll make sure to make this love come true, this time for sure!



"She's quite the beauty, that Lyra-san."

"Indeed."

After dinner we've returned to our room, but since I've clearly identified Bruno as being in love with Lyra-san just like I am, I've started to somehow feel wary towards him. Though, it looks like the same can be said about his side, too.

"Ron-chan, Bruno-chan, did you know? Pretty flowers have thorns. Like me."

""Haah...""

I know about that metaphor, but I can't believe this to be true for Lyra-san. Also, I don't feel that judging whether Candy-dono is beautiful is something I should mention at the moment, but...it definitely doesn't mean that I'm putting that decision on hold!

"You see, some time ago I heard a story from the young receptionist."

"Is that so...?"

Bruno seems to think that Candy-dono must have gone to the young man to ask about the landlady while trying to flirt with him.

"She's married."

"Really!?"

"Obviously. You think some unmarried lass would be able to run an inn like this? Right now her seventy years old husband seems to be ailing from illness, but I hear he's resting in the house next to this inn. A wife who's fifty years younger; she must really love him."

It sounds like Lyra-san is twenty years old. A difference of five years with me...it's no problem since I've left home!

The same applies to Bruno as well, though.

"Her husband owns the plot on which this inn stands, and has paid for the construction. Likewise, he owns other property and land in this town. It seems like he's a fairly rich guy."

Candy-dono is quite good to have found out all of this.

"A couple with quite the difference in age, I gotta say," says Boltor-dono after having entered the room, coming from next door.

Did he get interested?

"Boltor-san, what about Dalton-san?"

"That guy's silently servicing his ax, as usual. I mean, he's a taciturn fellow, so yeah."

He's right, neither Bruno nor I can remember having heard his voice before...

"But, let's not talk about Dalton. So, how many wives does that old geezer have besides her?"

"I don't know the details, but it looks like he's got plenty of mistresses. I hear that he's got two official wives."

The true owner of this inn apparently moved from one mistress to the other after losing his first wife in young years.

"His only son comes from his first wife, so I doubt that there will be any succession conflicts."

I see. No matter how much that old man fancies women, if another wife gives birth to his child, he might become unwilling to pass the inheritance to his oldest son. I guess that's why he's been only messing around with mistresses.

"What about that young landlady then?"

"It's something you often get to hear."

Lyra-san's late father had borrowed a big amount of money from that old man, and as he couldn't pay it back, she became the old man's mistress as collateral. However, on top of making Lyra-san

his favorite legal wife, he built this inn for her, and let her run it.

"I hear the old man fell ill immediately after the inn opened. The landlady is managing the inn while nursing her husband."

"Hm——m, and, what about the eldest son?"

"His mother-in-law is younger than his son. And they apparently argued over the establishment of the inn. As it turned into a huge fight, he was forbidden to enter his parent's home. Rich families sure are a pain."

"Personally I've got to raise my hat to you for having found out so much in such a short time, Candy."

"Somehow, you see, I heard about all this when I tried to somehow seduce the receptionist."

I think it's pretty obvious that he's kept bringing up all those stories to defend himself from Candy-dono's approaches.

"Lyra-san seems to be a pitiable person."

"Indeed! What a terrible geezer!"

Forcing Lyra-san to be his wife as security for a loan; what a disgrace of a man!

"How nice it must be to still be as young as you two. If that old man dies, she'll be able to receive a large amount of money, land, and the inn since she had been nursing him. If the eldest son doesn't fork over at least this much, it'll heavily damage his reputation."

"Because he hasn't looked after his sick father, huh?"

Seeing how he's going to inherit his father's legacy as successor, it's actually the rule that the eldest son looks after his father, should he fall sick. Since he's leaving all of that to Lyra-san, it's common sense for him to at least pay her properly later.

"Did you understand the circumstances, you two? Now matter how much of a beauty she might be, don't make a move on a married woman."

"Yep, we can earn some cash here, and I'd like to stay here for a month since we've come all the way out here. Thus, it's okay for you guys to go for other unmarried girls, but that woman is off-limits."

"We'd be driven out of this inn, if you did. And it'd make the search for the next inn difficult, too."

Bruno and I get warned by Candy-dono and Boltor-dono.

Lyra-san is a married woman...how regrettable.

Bruno also looks disappointed.

"Go sleep early in preparation for tomorrow."

"If you can't give up on her, I can take her place, if you want."

"I'm going to sleep!"

"Time to sleep!"

Bruno and I quickly jump under the blanket. We do have respect for Candy-dono as an adventurer, but he's very creepy as an object of romantic interest.

