

## Chapter 1

Intermediate TLs: lolihunter2 叶子 サダメ

English TL: uranophane

### Part 2

Watching Darkness run madly into the distance, Sylphina muttered,

“...Mommy is gone.”

The image of Sylphina sitting on top of the sofa wrapped up in a blanket made her appear as if she was a unfortunate child from a dysfunctional family, emanating an oddly depressing aura.

“What was that person thinking, leaving such a young child behind all alone...”

“...Sylphina, right? Darkness will probably come back in a moment; why not play with us until then.”

Megumin seems experienced in interacting with children, probably from dealing with her little sister Komekko. She smiled gently.

“Sure!”

With a slightly worried expression, Sylphina put on a weak smile--

“--I’m back.”

Said Megumin as she opened the door and entered.

“Welcome home, my dear husband. How’s the situation outside the city?”

Said Sylphina with a smile from inside her blanket.

So what is going on? Well, they’re playing “imaginary family”. [a kids’ game where each pretend to be a family member]

“About that; there were more than 20 dragons flying about, so I thought I might as well get rid of them. Can’t even count as warm-up, really.”

Hearing what ‘father Megumin’ said, Sylphina, the ‘mother’, turned to me and said,

“Hear that Kazuma? When you grow up, you have to strive to be as great as your father!”

That’s right, I acted as their son.

I had set up the scenario to have a very powerful, adventurer father.

Though I felt that it should have been reasonable for me to act as the father while Megumin acted as the mother...

"I do not wish to do such dangerous things as adventuring in the future. Instead, I want to be a merchant who makes big money off of others. Can't blame me for playing safe."

"Eh?"

"Y-you can't do that, Kazuma! What are you talking about!? You have the blood of the legendary hero! There are people out there suffering from the Demon King; as your mother, I will not tolerate such goals! Darling, please help me lecture him"

Oh really? So I am the descendent of some legendary warrior?

With a face full of confusion, Sylphina gazed at Megumin as if seeking for help.

"It's alright, calm down, Sylphina. That was indeed a more realistic prediction for our outlook. Even though he has talents in combat; as a parent, I still wouldn't want my child to place himself in dangerous situations. Isn't everything fine as long as our child lives in joy?"

Hearing Megumin say something so reasonable yet rare, Sylphina nodded, still in slight confusion.

"W-well, I must agree... So, Kazuma, you better at least aim to be a major businessman, and use your wealth to aid those other less fortunate warriors."

Probably due to her noble education growing up; while she's young, Sylphina still set a admirably righteous goal for me.

However...

"I would rather use the profit and connections to entice the less intelligent noble ladies to gain power and status. Then I'd live in leisure as I bask in all sorts of compliments from the subordinates."

"Hubby, Kazuma...he! Our son is turning into a teenage delinquent!"

"Keep calm, Sylphina, that kid has always been a lost cause... However, Kazuma, tricking noble ladies isn't something you should do. As an ordinary civilian, you'll soon be bothered by the massive difference in status and fail to establish a truly loving relationship. Thus, you should rather look to marry a capable, easygoing and intelligent yet impoverished girl."

Why are even your standards derailing?

"You heard what your daddy wishes, right Kazuma!? Letting your daddy down is very not okay!"

As she spoke, Sylphina patted my head from the sofa.

Watching me get lectured by a young child, Megumin turned around and started trembling.

She seems to be holding back laughter.

"I understand. Well then, tonight, I want to sleep with daddy so that he can tell stories of his adventurers till I fall asleep."

"Eh?"

Megumin was dumbstruck by my sudden comeback. Then, Sylphina clapped her hands as if agreeing to my suggestion.

"Good point. Great; so darling, go ahead and sleep with our son tonight. Teach him the morals of an adventurer and stuff. As for me, I'll go sleep with mom-...Lalatina-sama."

Sylphina said as she smiled hopefully.

She seemed to be looking for an excuse to sleep with Darkness.

Watching her sit wrapped in a blanket as tall as her neck, smiling like a *teru teru bouzu*, I couldn't help but lose confidence in my not being a lolicon.

No, what I'm feeling is the father instinct, definitely nothing indecent.

Though, as if sharing the same thoughts, Megumin went up to pat Sylphina's head.

Looking down at the confused and skeptical Sylphina, Megumin whispered,

"Having a child doesn't seem so bad."



Moments after she said it, Megumin sobered up and waved at me dismissively,

"Don't take what I just said the wrong way, I was just thinking that having a successor to my ultimately mortal flesh is not so bad..."

As if noticing how uncharacteristic her exclamation was, she desperately tried to save it with chuunibyou.

"If you want children, I'm available for assistance at any time."

"What hideous things are you spouting in front of a child!?"

### Part 3

That night.

"Sylphina, I heard they played with you today? What did you guys play?"

Having returned much later with Aqua in tow, Darkness asked gently as she ate grilled frog with her fork.

"Yes, these two played 'imaginary family' with me."

As if she's still getting used to this dish of Axel cuisine, Sylphina smiled brightly upon hearing Darkness' voice as she battled the frog meat.

While watching the duo who seemed more like sisters than mother and daughter--

"So, what did you really do?"

--I interrogated Aqua on the floor who's self-reflecting.

Hearing me, Aqua moaned as if she's been waiting for me to ask this,

"Hear me out, Kazuma! I was only spreading the news at the guild and other places; and just like that, Darkness got mad beyond belief, you know!? I was caught and brutalized by Darkness so I had to use my healing magic to repair myself; then she threatened to use the power of her family to forbid the liquor store from selling alcohol to me. I was only speaking the truth; don't you think she went too far!?"

"How about you consider what I feel when I'm greeted with congratulations of having a child every time I enter the guild!? Being made fun of by the drunkards then getting defended by the guild staff! Furthermore, they even ask me who the child's father was..."

Hearing that, Sylphina lowered her head in sympathy.

"It's all because of me, sorry mommy... Because it has been such a long time, I got too cheerful and accidentally..."

"Ah, it's not, Sylphina! I like children very much and never thought of you as a hassle! It was just their betting on who the father was and getting ridiculed..."

Then, Darkness inexplicably glared at me.

"Kazuma got the most votes, second place being the bear-esque noble guy who disappeared to nowhere. Who was next again? Right, that blonde delinquent whose name I do not recall got last place!"

"Although I feel a little...*that* saying this myself, but your list is full of nutty guys!"

"Shut it! You've indeed no place in this!"

--After dinner, everyone surrounded Sylphina to talk about their adventures. Aqua even let Sylphina play her treasured gaming console. Together, we had a moment of peace and joy...

Afterwards, as I played the console I confiscated from Aqua, my door was knocked.

"Kazuma, are you still awake? Can I come in?"

Megumin's seemingly nervous voice came from behind the door.

"Sure I'm awake, but I'm not really content to let you in. After all, you often come at this time to play with my emotions before leaving me alone with blue balls."

"The hell? Don't describe me like I'm some manipulative hooker! I never tried to play with your emotions!"

Well, then you're one hell of a succubus (TL note: metaphorically. lit. a woman who brings poverty and humiliation to men through seduction).

I briefly put down my controller to glance from inside the blankets at Megumin through the door crack,

"So, what is up? Could you be feeling too lonely to sleep by yourself and want some company?"

I said sarcastically as I shifted my attention back to the game--

"Indeed, I want to sleep with you tonight."

Hearing Megumin say such things casually, I couldn't help but be petrified.

As the character built up by Aqua through countless days of hard work got shredded piece-by-piece by monsters.

## Part 4

"Look, I'm not about to be tricked by the same tactic again. I'm unlike Aqua who never learns from experience. Don't believe I'll dumbly follow your honey-loaded commands just because I'm a virgin dude in his teenage."

That's right, I still have my beloved succubus-san for that.

Even though what this person had said about being between friends and lovers just last night left me sleepless the whole night, I wouldn't always be this stupid.

After succumbing to the same trick many times, there's no way I would be baited again.

“What are you talking about? Weren’t you the one who wanted to sleep with me tonight? Did you forget about what you had said while we were playing with Sylphina?”

Said Megumin in disbelief. I threw aside the console in response.

I had said.

That’s right, I did say it, I did indeed say that!

...No, wait a second. It’s not time for panic yet!

“Wh-what? Why are you so cautious? You were giving all sorts of mixed signals recently, Kazuma, why are you making such a big fuss?”

Somewhat confused, Megumin closed the distance while questioning.

“I never made any fuss; I was just frustrated about being that typical male protagonist from a low-quality romcom who always gets cut-off mid development. I’m just pissed about that! I’m at my most energetic age, mind you. What do You and Darkness, find so fun about teasing an innocent virgin guy like me? You have to keep in mind that boys would be chronically plagued with sadness as soon as the thought of being played crosses his mind.”

“A-about that.. From my perspective, I was simply confessing my feelings as well as wanting to communicate more, without knowledge that it might put you in pain. I-I apologize for that...”

Seeing me outraged, Megumin confusedly tried to explain herself with cold sweat.

“Since you realize it, leave quickly. All thanks to your strange statements, the character Aqua had brought up like her son died. If I don’t hurry up and remake the character tonight, she’ll lose her mind again tomorrow morning.”

“No, wait a second, I really have important things to say to you tonight, please don’t shoo me away! By the way, is my presence even less important than a game? I’m a little angry about that!”

I pushed myself up from the bed and looked over at the restless Megumin.

“What? Things like sleeping together aren’t exactly important to me. I’d get all flustered and excited, a real test of mental strength for young men like me. Compared to getting blue-balled at the last moment, I’d rather sleep alone.”

“...Sure, it’s my fault to leave you hanging after getting your hopes up, but I really didn’t expect you to make this big of a fuss about it. Alright, we’ll put bed-sharing aside for now; can we just chat for a while?”

.....

“Well, then it’d kinda be a waste, also somewhat lonely...”

“Kazuma, you’re pretty skilled at killing time! Sorry for interrupting, alright!?”

Megumin closed the door behind her as she stepped in, sitting wordlessly on my bed.

Full of spirit just a while ago, Megumin suddenly dropped her head and fell silent.

She seems to be holding back some words, yet her face gradually faded red...

“Oi, don’t be like that, why are you blushing? Say whatever you wanted to say quickly; why do people like you always love to do things that aren’t good for my heart!? What I’m saying is, such actions really make me uncomfortable!”

“H-hold on, don’t rush me like that! We gotta start chatting with everyday life, right? Don’t panic, we can start with a normal conversation and go from there!”

With her whole face bright red, Megumin blurted out without even lifting her head.

“What’s the matter with you!? Coming to another person’s bedroom deep in the night then forcing them to talk about the daily grind!?”

As if realizing her own stupidity, Megumin said with glowing eyes,

“R-right, by the way! What actually happened between you and Iris? Even though we didn’t bother clearing it up because of Komekko’s arrival, I’m still very wary about what made you throw us aside to stay at the capital.”

This bastard, digging up the ancient matters I tried so hard to seal.

At the time, I said that I couldn’t remember the details due to the lingering effects of the potion and didn’t tell the entire story...

“Actually, it’s just that the person I’ve always regarded as my sister, Iris, cried and hang on and just won’t let me leave. She even said ‘I like onii-chan so much’ with teary eyes, stuff like ‘I love onii-chan’ and ‘Iris will go commit suicide if onii-chan doesn’t stay at the capital’, so even someone heartless as me was touched.”

“Why does this man still lack resolve as always? Also, did she really say things like loving you and committing suicide if you didn’t stay?”

Although my brain might have filled in with a few additional details due to the effect of the memory wipe, the general storyline feels mostly correct.

....right.

“AAHHHHHHH, OH CRAAAAAAP!”

I suddenly remembered something and violently shot up from my bed.

“Wh-why are you jumping up all of the sudden? Making big noises could end terribly at such a time!! What if someone comes to check!?”

“No, Iris! I forgot about Iris! Before I was force-fed the memory wiping potion, Iris told me to write her a letter when I remembered her. She said she’ll keep waiting!”

Crap, I have to send this as soon as possible.

Iris may very well end up losing hope for this world and do something extreme.

I hurried to the desk and prepared to write--

“Wait a moment.”

Megumin tugged on my shirt from the bed.



“What is it? Thanks to your beating around the bush, I remembered such an important matter. It’s urgent, don’t bother me.”

“There’s literally a young girl in your bedroom right now, and yet you’re writing a letter to another girl in her face. You really are brave in a wicked sense! By the way, um...”

Still holding onto my shirt, Megumin raised her head and asked resolutely,

“Do you still remember what I said last night?”

Her eyes glowed at an intensity I’ve never witnessed before, staring straight into my beet red face.

“The thing about being between friends and lovers?”

Impossible to forget.

Because of what she said, I basically got no sleep that night.

Hearing my tense response, Megumin nodded with a blush.

“Indeed, that. My wish to be more than friends but not yet a couple. I’ve come tonight to hear your answer.”

...Eh?

“Was that supposed to be a confession last night? When I saw you leave without hearing what I had to say, I thought I was in for yet another setup for a blue-ball play from the succubus that you are.”

“Just how low and immoral am I in your eyes, huh Kazuma? I’d never play with anyone’s emotions!”

Since you persist this way, why stop at basic skinship and verbal expressions?

“So, your answer is?”

Saying that, Megumin brought her glowing eyes closer...!

“Oi, too close, too close! Your face is too close... Well, then, if I were to say ‘let’s go out’, would I officially become lovers with Megumin? Also, what exactly did you mean by ‘more than friends but not yet a couple’? Wouldn’t we be better off as a straight-up, ordinary couple? Most importantly, why do we have to be on such a blurry line on this subject?”

“No, if we were to be a couple... Think about it, wouldn’t we have trouble dealing with each other in front of everyone else? What I mean is, we shouldn’t charge straight into this but move slowly, step-by-step, inch-by-inch...”

Only now feeling embarrassed by her own actions, Megumin suddenly turned bashful.

“What the hell is with such a *shoujo* response? You’re giving me goosebumps, stop!”

“I literally am a *shoujo*! Be it by age or other meanings, I’m a textbook shoujo! What have you been seeing me as up till now!?”

She’s always been overly direct about such matters, so her new attitude took me by complete surprise.

“...Could you be getting a little desperate? Even though it’s unlikely, but could you possibly be developing some yandere complex towards Iris? Calm down and think carefully, I’m not trashy enough to make moves on such a young girl.”

“You clearly left us to stay alone at the capital; you have quite the audacity to still insist on that. Indeed, I am getting desperate. I’m only able to tell this coherently right now because I am calm. When you had first told us that you weren’t coming back, I nearly burst into tears. I can’t stress this enough no matter how many times I say it, but please don’t worry me so much...”

Probably due to her emotional state of mind, the red light from her eyes only grew in intensity.

Her eyes have glowed a plenty of times over the days, but I’ve never seen them glow in such a vibrant shade of red.

“Plus, I’m always aware of my status as a crappy archwizard. If a more sensible, more powerful and more resolute girl who shared the same role were to suddenly show up...!”

As she spoke, Megumin clutched my collar irately.

Bad news; that’s the offensive shade of red!

“I-I get it! It’s my bad! I’m the one to blame for all this, sorry, sincerely! I apologize!”

Even with my apology, the brilliant crimson glow from Megumin did not diminish in the slightest.

“Well then, do you or do you not wish to become more than friends and less than lovers with me?”

Said Megumin with a completely serious--and slightly angry--face.

What is up with that? Has there ever been a confession as aromantic in history?

Rather than a confession, Megumin’s tone suggested more of a threat. She kept bringing her face closer.

Before I could answer, I must confirm something.

"When you say 'between friends and a couple\*', to what extent would you exactly count as OK? Think about it, isn't it too broad? You get what I'm implying here."

Facing my confrontation, Megumin lowered her head red-faced.

"I know, I know alright. Speaking of which... I really haven't done that kind of thing before. I understand; well, let's do it then. It's too late tonight, how about tomorrow morning?"

It's too late tonight?

Tomorrow morning?

"Wait, isn't that sort of thing usually done late in the night?"

"...Wait a minute Kazuma, is there a discrepancy between what we're thinking of? What 'extent' did Kazuma think I meant? Since we've had this problem before, let's say our thoughts out loud on a count of 3."

One, two...

"Make children."

"Go on a date."

So that's what. Now that she mentioned it, we haven't ever gone on a proper date before.

"Hey."

Facing the somberly complaining Megumin, I hammered my palm as if everything finally made sense--

"You're not wrong, we indeed haven't dated properly yet. Should we jump bases and become a couple directly, numerous issues would arise..."

"Making babies!? Well alright; not that I'm agreeing with what my mom had said yesterday, but as long as you can take responsibility--maybe... being forced into a shotgun wedding due to me being pregnant would indeed more fitting and cool..."

Megumin made an expression akin to that of Archimedes during his Eureka moment and said with a sigh.

"...What's going on? The term 'shotgun wedding' still makes me a little anxious."

"Wait a second, a while ago when you tried to cross that line with me in that hotel room somewhere, didn't you say that you loved me back!?"

Now that she mentions it, I do remember something like that happening.

At the time I was mesmerized by Megumin's seduction, and talked about some parenting-related matters while embracing her.

"That's completely different. Last night, because of what you said, multiple problems prevented me from sleeping. Thus, I went out after playing with Sylphina and paid a *special fee* to get a 'nap'."

"What do naps have to do with your actions just now? I'm not exactly catching your drift!"

Boys have something called a refractory period.

My name is Satou Kazuma.

A man who isn't swayed by beauty or emotion; someone who won't easily agree to pick up such huge responsibilities.

"Megumin, how old are you this year? I remember you being nearly 15, right? So about that, I think rather than a 'make children, get married' approach, we should start with more regular interactions. Let's think about this calmly; we both haven't ever gone on dates before, so if we were to suddenly get children and have a shotgun wedding, it'd end terribly for both us and our offspring."

"Excuse me, you were the one who brought up baby-making, alright!?"

Said Megumin agitatedly.

“No, wait, I’ve put this through very clear consideration. Now, don’t we know very little about each other still? Think about it, megumin, didn’t you often claim to be a grown-up? Even then, ‘fell in love, so let’s make babies and get married’ isn’t a very mature idea by any standard.”

“As I said, *weren’t you the first to bring up such a topic!*? My goodness, what is going on? Didn’t you also think that way, Kazuma!? You’re awkward enough already, and today you’re especially...!”

Then, seeing me keep my cool even in this situation, Megumin seems to have figured out the state of affairs.

Her face soon cooled down as her gaze...

That’s right, it was the same look Darkness gave me when she catches me watching her walk through the mansion in lingerie; that look up utter disrespect.

“I-is there any hope in saving this man anymore...? Acting cold as soon as the topic switches away from sex. Truly incredible. Even I didn’t expect you to be someone this far gone... You’ve even went *there* with me, you’ve already advanced our relationship to such a heated degree; was that all for some loli pussy!? (TL note: she did not literally admit to be a loli; this was a toned-down translation for the original, which was a little more indecent) How could you turn ice cold as soon as your hopes of reproducing are crushed...!”

“Oi hold it, you! We have merely bathed together, slept together and hugged; don’t exaggerate it so much. Since my reputation is going to be tarnished anyway, wouldn’t it be wasted opportunity if I didn’t do anything of *substance*?”

“Is that so? Well, before you make more claims about having this and not doing that, I’ve come to some conclusions of my own.”

Ouch, that look. As if staring at trash.

Finally, Megumin deeply exhaled and said,

“Anyways... So, I guess you’re *that* kind of man. The kind I simply couldn’t come to hate even in this circumstance. Just how could I be this kind, really...”

Even as she said that, Megumin’s face was still stern as ever. Although, her earlier look of disrespect has downgraded to that of suspicion, more or less.

“Well, um... Since the atmosphere for confessing is far gone, what should we do in the future?”

Somewhat exhausted, Megumin drooped her shoulders and sat still staring at me as if waiting for my response.

However, I didn’t have a clue on how to answer her even though she asked me. What *should* we do in the future?

To be honest, though I’ve been together with Megumin and company for a long time, I never thought about which route I’d go down the first time we met; furthermore, I still don’t truly understand even my own emotions.

Let alone living with the opposite sex, I don’t even have history with dating. What ‘love’, what ‘missing’; those feelings are all so...

... ..

Eh?

What’s going on? I just carelessly tried to imagine our future...

I used to think that suddenly marrying and suddenly having a child to take care of would be devastating, but when I mentally placed Megumin in the co-pilot's seat, I could suddenly care less about the burdens.

Even now, with all these dangling threads tied up, I still wholeheartedly anticipate doing things like dating with Megumin sometime in the future.

Having careless, casual talks for fun, saying stuff like "Hey Megumin, since we're bored anyway, why not find a lake with pretty scenery, blow it up with explosion magic and make some waves for fun?"

...eh?

What's happening?

What the hell is going on?

"Hey, hey Megumin, oh crap! I might actually be in love with you!"

"Atrocious! You're absolutely atrocious! Really freaking atrocious! 'Might actually be in love with me'!? What is this supposed to be, a confession!? Couldn't you mind your wording a little!!!"

You can't expect so much from a virgin guy.

Seeing me at a loss with a face full of cold sweat, Megumin said to me,

"...Sigh. You really are someone who always spills the spaghetti at crucial moments. Really now... As I've said, I like your unpredictable nature... Again, I couldn't get mad even though I really want to..."

Judging by her expression, Megumin looked defeated and intrigued at the same time.

She said in resignation.

Seeing her this way, I started to relax. Yet she shot me a deathly glare as soon as I heaved a breath.

S-sorry!

"...So, what should we do in the future? Well... Uh... About that... After today..."

Said Megumin with a slightly anxious expression.

Her face is flushed just a little and her voice is low.

Er...

"Wh-what should we do? Well, frankly speaking, I've never encountered something this exciting in my life. So if you suddenly ask me about what to do when dating a girl, I wouldn't have a clue. That said, if we were to really go between friends and lovers, I guess I wouldn't need to get all panicky. I really am just overjoyed; even though you have a plenty of strange quirks, you still are a beauty after all... So um, I'd say... a relationship like that is...alright...-ish?"

Hearing my response,

"...O-okay then... All in all, let's leave it at that for now.....P-plus, this way, it wouldn't be too awkward for the others..."

Seemingly shy from being called a 'beauty', Megumin breathed a sigh of relief and said quietly while blushing.

Watching her act like this, I inexplicably started feeling shy, too.

What the hell, we're like a textbook example of an awkward couple right now.

Crap, this is terrible. It all smells so fresh with youth and my heart is starting to race!

Ugh, this kind of development... how should we break it to Darkness and Aqua?

Do we tell them?

How would it transform in the future?

Not yet a couple...

Not yet a couple, does that imply we could at least do things that merely suggest a couple?

And which things resemble a couple's activity without being identical to it? Where is the line...?

Just as I painfully considered these details, Megumin said to me,

"Well then, before we officially become lovers, we should better keep this a secret from Aqua and Darkness... Also, for the sake of keeping it discreet, we must put mature activities aside for now."

"Ah?"



THE END OF CHAPTER 1