

## Marie Route 6

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### Part 1

Sounds of cannon shot reverberated in the sky without pause.

Smoke came out each time gun or cannon are fired. That smoke spread to the surrounding and making the scenery smoky.

Screaming voices that are mixed with noise and angry yells can be heard from the communicators.

It's extremely clear to an unpleasant degree that the surrounding is in confusion from what's going on in front of them.

「How did it turn out like this when the mission is just for investigation!!」

I, Leon Fou Bartfelt cursed inside Arroganz' s cockpit. My finger can' t let go of the trigger of my control stick.

The barrel of the gatling gun Arroganz is carrying rotated and spewed bullets.

The bullets shot through a swarm of monsters that numbered more than several thousands.

The bullets always hit no matter where I shot.

The monsters that got shot by the bullets would burst and vanished as black smoke.

That smoke will spread and worsen the surrounding' s visibility.

When I checked the rear, four ships including Partner are continuously firing their cannons without pause.

The armors that sallied out from the ships are facing the swarm of monsters.

『Master, enemy reinforcement confirmed.』

An image is magnified at the corner of the monitor. In it are two ships of the kingdom being led by Partner protecting a single flying ship.

The flying ship is flying the flag of Arzel Principality. Its floating in the air without being able to move anywhere.

The damage on the ship is horrible. In that state it' s unfeasible for it to be able to escape from the monsters.

Partner is taking in the passengers, but the process is taking time.

「Looks like we picked up something troublesome.」

How did things turn out like this—everything can be traced back to several days ago.

## Part 2

Around the time when spring break has just started.

That day, I came to the royal capital together with my fiancée Marie Fou Rafan.

「Why do we have to come to the capital again even though we had just came home huh.」

Marie is complaining, but her expression is showing anxiety and nervousness.

We got down on the flying ship harbor at the nearby sky above the royal capital. From there we immediately started walking and got into a line to board a small boat.

「It can' t be helped. If we want to get detailed information then it' s more convenient to be at the capital no matter what. Besides, there is no way we can just ignore the matter of us getting designated as subjugation target.」

There are two reasons why we returned to the capital.

First—to confirm the veracity of the information that the neighboring country Arzel Principality was destroyed.

Inside the letter that was sent to Claris-senpai who I am sheltering in my family home, there was an account that Arzel Principality that will become the stage of that otome game's sequel was destroyed.

But the letter only mentioned that and didn't write any more detail than that.

The one who sent that letter must also be unable to obtain any more detail than that at that time.

We intentionally came to the capital because we judged that there is high possibility that there is new information about the matter in here.

Unfortunately information will only reach the countryside after much delay.

「This will be easy if only Luxion is here though.」

When I muttered the name of Luxion who isn' t here, Marie grabbed my wrist.

Her expression looked even more uneasy than before.

「Is that guy really alright? He is moving around as he pleased after all. He seems suspicious somehow. You know, there are a lot of development of AI turning traitor in movie or manga right?」

It seemed Marie is uneasy with how Luxion is moving around as it pleased.

Certainly Luxion is acting too selfish recently.

He is ignoring me even when I gave him order, and it weighed my mind how he is secretly taking action outside of my knowledge.

Just what in the world is he doing?

「He can' t go against me his master.」

「There isn' t any guarantee of that!」

「Don' t worry. If he is planning to betray me, then he would have already do just that since a long time ago.」

We won' t be alive if Luxion seriously betrayed us.

Marie reluctantly agreed when I told her that.

「T-that' s true. But, he is moving around as he pleased too much. You should just order him more strictly.」

「I' ll do that when he return. —**More importantly, let's take care of the more pressing trouble first.**」

The second reason of us returning to the capital is the information that Bartfalt House is getting considered as enemy by the palace.

Marie is observing the surrounding fearfully.

「We came to the capital without thinking much but, are we really going to be okay? We aren' t going to suddenly get caught aren' t we?」

For some reason I' m reminded of my sister in my previous life when looking at how scared Marie is. It made me wanted to tease her.

I laughed flippantly and lightly joked at Marie.

「I wonder. I beat up his highness Julius after the duel, so it's highly possible that they are holding a grudge to me. In the worst case perhaps I might get executed.」

「How can you laugh about that huh!」

Marie hit me repeatedly with her hands. It's a bit painful.

「That hurts so stop it! Your fist is heavy. It resounded until my bone.」

Marie has a frail appearance, but her fist is heavy.

Luxion said this before, that Marie has highly dense bones and muscles so she is heavier than she looked.

I mustn't get tricked by her appearance.

She is a woman who is strong both physically and mentally—**that's Marie.**

**I stopped walking and turned around. I turned my gaze toward my huge flying ship Partner.**

「Arroganz and others are going to do something if push comes to shove.」

Even Marie's anxiety softened when I mentioned Arroganz.

「Even though his parent Luxion is that willful, Arroganz is really a good child isn't he?」

The AI loaded inside Arroganz is an inferior version of Luxion.

He is inferior ability wise, even so his desire to learn is high and he also follow order obediently, so Marie's impression of him is 「good child」.

He is also unreliable in many things, but Arroganz's strength can be called as overwhelming in this world.

Just a little while ago we got cornered into a difficult fight against that black knight old man, but it's unthinkable that there is still that many enemy of that level, or rather I don't even want to think about it.

In fact there is no combat force in Hohlfahrt Kingdom that can possibly rival Arroganz and Partner.

The exception might be the royal family's ship I guess? But even that is a trump card of the kingdom that won't be dispatched so easily.

It's unthinkable that it will be send out in order to capture us.

We embarked to a dangerous place like the capital also because we have a guarantee that we would be able to return back safely.

「I hope it' s just a bad rumor.」

Bartfalt House got designated as an enemy of Hohlfahrt Kingdom—we entered the capital in order to investigate that rumor.

### Part 3

I visited a mansion in the capital.

The owner of that mansion is the head of Atlee House who served as a minister until just a little while ago, Barnard Fia Atlee.

He lost his position due to the incident that Claris-senpai caused and after that it seems he is living quietly in his mansion.

The man with small body build and mild-mannered expression welcomed our visit without any reluctance.

The former minister Barnard guided us into a reception room where we talked.

「Many of the servants in this mansion has resigned. Right now it' s difficult to even take care of this mansion, but thanks to me having nothing to do my life here isn' t that bad.」

Minister Barnard said that while smiling, but to other people who heard it, his words would sound like an unwillingness to admit defeat.

In fact Atlee House that lost the minister post is ruined after all.

Marie and I drank the tea that the butler who remained in the mansion brewed while listening about the detailed information from former minister Barnard.

「Looks like there are a lot of troubles brewing.」

「The inside and outside of the palace are also in chaos right now. Thinking back, it was fortunate of me to be dismissed from my post. —Is what you want to ask about the movement in the palace?」

When Marie and I nodded, it seemed former minister Barnard guessed what we wanted to ask him.

He told the butler to leave the room before starting to speak in detail.

「His highness the crown prince and his surrounding are spreading the rumor that Bartfalt House is planning to rebel. The source of the rumor is several hot-blooded youngsters running their mouth impertinently about forming a subjugation army.」

Marie's shoulders slumped in relieve hearing that.

「Thank god. In that case we won't get subjugated right?」

「It doesn't change the fact that his highness is holding a grudge to us though.」

I let out a small sigh and sent a gaze to Marie who is sitting beside me that the situation is still one where we can't let our guard down.

「Ugh! W-well that's true.」

What we heard just now sounded like a bad joke but, the situation is the worst if the crown prince his highness Julius is spreading bad rumor about us.

「Perhaps it's just a matter of time until the kingdom's military move.」

「So in the end it's no good isn't it!」

After all the future ruler of the country is hating me and my family.

—As I thought, I overdid it at the exhibition match.

However former minister Barnard denied that worst case in my imagination.

「About that matter, the saintess is denying that rumor.」

「The saintess is?」

What came to mind is the saintess's figure when she asked me for help during our meeting. Her figure at that time left a deep impression in me.

It still tightened my chest when I recalled it right now.

For some reason there is always an uneasiness bubbling somewhere in my heart, as though I'm forgetting something important, like I have suffered an unexpected defeat.

「Yes, it seemed the saintess remonstrated his highness the crown prince and the people around him. His highness also can't go against the saintess and apparently they are doing their best to erase the rumor.」

Marie looked at my face from the side uneasily, but we can't talk about the saintess here.

I changed the topic after knowing that my family is safe for now.

「I' m relieved to hear that. One more thing, is there any new information about Alzer Principality? I heard that country got destroyed.」

Former minister Barnard shook his head.

「Unfortunately the information that the palace obtained isn' t much. In the first place, this information came from the kingdom' s merchants who escaped from the principality. It seems that the palace will dispatch an investigation team soon, but apparently they can' t gather enough manpower, and the movement of the dukedom is also concerning.」

「I see. Even so it' s amazing that Barnard-san know that much about this.」

Even though he shouldn' t be a minister anymore, how can he obtain this much information?

Former minister Barnard smiled to us.

「It' s only natural to have one or two connections after working as long as I was in the palace. I wonder if I can be of help to my daughter' s savior with this?」

Former minister Barnard was asked to take responsibility for his daughter and resigned from his post, and right now he is waiting for the palace' s verdict, but I can see composure from his attitude.

Or perhaps, he has completely resigned himself in regard to everything?

「You have been a really big help.」

「That' s great. And, what are you planning to do now?」

「My family is also worried about the situation. So we are going home right away after this t tell them about this news.」

When I told former minister Barnard that I want to reassure my family quickly, he made a meek expression that differed from his composure until now.

「**About that**, can I ask you to wait for a bit? I will send a letter to your family to explain this. There is someone who I want you to meet no matter what.」

「Someone?」

I rode a carriage just as former minister Barnard told me and headed to a very large mansion.

The someone that he mentioned is a teacher in the academy and also my tea ceremony master, that person.

Marie isn't close with master, so she refused to come together with me.

It seemed that she isn't good in dealing with master because of his title as mannerism instructor.

The mansion has an atmosphere that made felt its age, but it's being cared for very well.

As I stared at the mansion thinking of how tasteful it is, former minister Barnard got down from the carriage and called out to a gardener.

That gardener is a man past middle age with a straight and firm back.

「You haven't changed at all.」

Mister Barnard seemed familiar with the gardener. No—he is acting like he is talking with someone of higher status.

I hurriedly got down from the carriage and ran toward the gardener.

「Master!」

「Mister Leon, so you are back in the capital.」

「W-why is master doing gardening work!？」

「I'm entrusted with the maintenance of this old mansion. Sometimes it feels good to do gardening work by myself, because with that I can enjoy tea in a garden that I have tended by myself.」

Master smiled brightly. Even though he isn't putting on airs, he looked like he is overflowing with elegance.

「I'll also help!」

There is no way I can let master do the gardening work by himself. But when I offered my help, master refused me gently.

「I can't possibly make Mister Leon to help me with this. Besides, I want to ask for your help with a different matter.」



「A different matter?」

Master looked toward Mister Barnard. Both of them nodded to each other and spoke of the reason why they called me here.

「You are aware about the matter of Alzer Principality yes? The palace can't even confirm the fact that the country is destroyed.」

The kingdom is busy with the war against the dukedom, so it can't even dispatch an investigation team for this matter.

From the way master said it, it seemed that he wanted to personally request me to investigate.

「The kingdom still has combat force remaining isn't it?」

「There are many people who desire to participate in the invasion into the dukedom's territory though. The military also doesn't want to join the investigation team because they won't be able to participate in the battle with guaranteed win.」

「The military is?」

So the military officers are reluctant to get dispatched as investigation team because they wanted to obtain achievement in war? Then former minister Barnard explained to me about the circumstance surrounding that.

「Before the invasion to the dukedom, the military is gathering combat force from every place. Because of that the forces assigned to the borders are thinned down, so the military doesn't want to assign combat force to other place unnecessarily.」

Hohlfahrt Kingdom has a lot of enemies around it, so when war broke out, there will be other countries that started moving to take advantage of the opening.

The kingdom military that were stationed at the borders and the feudal lord nobles wanted to gather as much combat force as possible.

It seemed that they have no leeway to dispatch investigation team in the middle of such situation.

「If Mister Leon lead an investigation team under the kingdom's order, the people who harbored needless misunderstanding toward you will also fall silent. This task won't bring any disadvantage for your family.」

Master gave me an offer that he wanted me to lead the investigation team.

「So it's to show that my relationship with the kingdom is going well?」

There is bad rumor about me circulating, but if I led an investigation team because the palace ordered me to, the surrounding will also think 「So it's just a rumor huh」 .

Personally I wanted to go home right away, but earning point from here also isn't a bad idea.

「I don't mind. I'll send a letter to back home.」

Master grabbed my hand with both hands and displayed his gratitude.

「Thank you. I too can feel relieved if Mister Leon is taking care of this matter.」

I'm also happy that I can be useful for master.

But, master explained the current situation to me with a sorrowful expression.

「To be honest, the present situation isn't good.」

「Eh?」

「If you are forced to make a decision, what will you do at that time Mister Leon? No, what's important is what do you want to do.」

My fickle mood vanished when master talked about making decision.

When I looked at how serious master is, even I realized that this isn't an atmosphere where I can joke around.

「Is the situation that dangerous?」

「Can you understand the seriousness if I say that the situation is like a powder keg? We don't know when the fire will be lit.」

Just for a moment I wondered if it would be better for Marie to be here so I can feel healed, but there is also a part of me that think that it's better instead that she isn't here.

Now then, what should I do?

I thought for a bit before the conclusion came out right away.

Sadly, the current me doesn't have any choice.

When I turned my gaze toward the former minister Barnard, he is smiling but his eyes are radiating seriousness.

Master said that he will respect my decision.

「—I see. Although, for me there is almost no choice at all that remains an option for me.」

## Part 5

—And so, I ended up leading an investigation team toward Alzer Principality.

Other than Partner, I'm only bringing two flying ships of the kingdom that were prepared for me.

It seemed that even this number was gathered after much effort.

Because the purpose of the team is for investigation, at first nobody was concerned with gathering combat force.

We just need to run if it get dangerous—when we were thinking that, we found a flying ship running away from Alzer Principality and rushed to help. That was what started this.

Monsters are swarming the flying ship, so I boarded Arroganz and launched to help.

「Why is there no end to them!」

I opened the container on Arroganz's back and dozens of missiles are fired from there. They exploded and destroyed many monsters at the surrounding.

The monsters that got swallowed by the explosions vanished, but the next monsters advanced forward as though to plug the opened holes.

I can only stay here and faced the monsters until the rescue is finished.

In the middle of such situation, a happy notification came from Arroganz.

『Rescue finished. Beginning the withdrawal of Partner.』

「Yosh! Let's run away immediately.」

『Firing missiles.』

Multiple missiles are fired from Partner. They headed toward the swarm of monsters and caused explosions.

The scale of the explosions are bigger than Arroganz's missiles. A lot of monsters are scorched into black smoke.

「We' re running away before enemy reinforcement arrives. Ain' t no way I' m going to accompany them forever.」

I spat out that parting line and we ran away.

In the end, we are unable to obtain detailed information from Alzer Principality.

## Part 6

「I don' t want to fight anymore!」

Arroganz landed on Partner' s deck and I got down from it. There I realized how sweaty I am.

My sweats are dripping on the deck.

Maintenance robots gathered around Arroganz and began to service it.

When the armor panels at various spots are opened, the heat locked inside became steam that burst out.

If it wasn' t for Arroganz, I would have gotten swallowed by the swarm of monsters in the middle and died.

I felt scared for a moment when I imagined that.

I walked with unsteady steps and grabbed the handrail. When I looked back, I can see the swarm of monsters are heading this way.

But, it looks like it' s impossible for them to catch up to us who are running away wholeheartedly.

I let out a deep sigh in relieve, then I crumbled down on the spot and sat down.

「It' s finally over.」

Marie came out from inside the ship toward me who is completely exhausted.

「Leon! It' s awful!」

「Is it enemy?」

I grabbed on the handrail and stood up. Marie shook her head several times to me energetically.

「That' s not it. Anyway just come with me!」

Marie grabbed my hand and dragged me inside the ship.

## Part 7

When we arrived at the sickbay, there is a blonde girl lying down on the bed.

She is muttering something with a blank gaze.

I immediately turned my gaze to Marie and asked her the situation.

「Can she be treated?」

Marie looked down and shook her head.

「Impossible. It' s too late already.」

「She is still alive! She is also still breathing and muttering something like that!  
」

「Normally she would have died since a long time ago already!」

The girl is muttering something.

She doesn' t look dead at all, but Marie grabbed the girl' s right hand.

The crest on the back of her right hand is shining faintly.

But, the crest is getting thinner and thinner.

「This is the cause. This is just my guess but, I think this is the sacred tree' s crest. This thing might be what is barely keeping her alive.」

「The sacred tree' s crest? Is it something from the sequel?」

I mentioned the sequel because I recalled the story about the crest that Marie told me.

The stage of that otome game' s sequel was Alzer Principality.

I was also told that the crest of the sacred tree is an important factor in the story.

Marie pulled me closer to the girl and then she stepped back to leave the rest to me.

「Anyway listen to her story. If it's this person then she should know about the situation in detail. I—have to go healing the other people.」

In other words, Marie can't save this person.

There are also still a lot of other injured people. It seems that Marie is prioritizing them.

I could see Marie making a regretful face when leaving the room.

I approached the girl and grabbed her hand, then I brought my face closer and talked to her.

「Can you talk? What happened at the principality?」

I carefully talked louder than usual, but not so loud that it will startle the girl.

When the girl opened her eyes, she looked at me with lightless eyes.

「I—I'm—Louise Sara Rault. The daughter of Rault House that is serving as the chairman representative of the six great nobles.」

The girl—Louise-san is trying to convey something to me even while looking pained sometimes.

Speaking of Rault House, according to Marie it should be the great noble who would become the “last boss”.

Is Louise-san related to that person?

「Not long ago—a very large flying ship appeared at the sky. It was a mysterious flying ship that was never seen before. Right after that, the sacred tree became strange.」

「Mysterious flying ship?」

For an instant, Luxion's ship body flashed in my mind.

From the perspective of this world's human, that ship will look like a lump of metal to them.

「It was very large—and, the army of the principality was helpless before it. There was nothing we could do before that overpowering enemy.」

Alzer Principality is a powerful country that boasted to be unbeatable when it came to defensive battle.

Such country was destroyed so easily. I wished this is just a joke.

「Your country was unbeatable in defensive battle wasn't it?」

「We were powerless before that flying ship. The flying ship fired lights. Our allies that got pierced by those lights sunk one after another. Otou-sama and others tried to do something using the sacred tree's power—cough」

Louise-san coughed painfully. She coughed out blood.

Looking closer, the radiance of the crest on her right hand is getting weaker.

「Looks like I don't have long.」

Louise-san looked at her right hand while muttering sadly.

I urged her to continue. A part of me wanted her to not force herself, but right now I wanted to get as much information as possible.

「—What happened with the sacred tree's power?」

Louise-san seemed to guess my feeling. She resumed talking even while feeling in pain.

Louise-san is also desperate in order to tell about the situation of her motherland.

「They failed in fusing with the sacred tree. My parents—died at that time. I was told to spread the news about this—if only that girl didn't show up」

Louise-san's expression turned grave. Tears of mortification spilled out from her eyes.

「If only the survivor of Lespinasse House didn't get in the way—that detestable fellow」

「Lespinasse House got in the way?」

「If only that girl didn't get in the way, things wouldn't turn out like this.」

The survivor of Lespinasse House, a destroyed large noble house—in the sequel the survivor of that house should be a girl who is the main character.

Why did the main character got in the way? Besides, Rault House was the antagonist house wasn't it?

Rather, shouldn't they be at the side doing the destruction of the country?

While I'm confused because questions without answer are coming up one after another in my mind, Louise-san wiped her tears of frustration and continued her story.

「The priestess calmed down the rampaging sacred tree. But, the sacred tree turned into a sinister form and absorbed her. Even now she is suffering in our homeland. Please, I don't know who are you but, I beg you——**please save Noelle**」

By priestess, did she meant the main character of that otome game's sequel?

Certainly Marie said that the female of Lespinasse House can become the priestess.

In that case, there is a discrepancy with what she said just now.

「The priestess is a member of Lespinasse House right? Didn't she betray your country?」

Her explanation is inconsistent.

Louise-san too isn't in a state that is fit to give explanation. The accuracy of her information is doubtful.

It seemed that Louise-san can't hear my voice anymore. She is mumbling in regret.

「Noelle——**I should have properly talked more with you**」

Louise-san's consciousness is getting hazy. She became unable to even answer my question.

But, at the end she muttered.

「Leon, I'm sorry. Onee-chan, couldn't protect anything.」

「Eh?」

Why did my name come out there?

No, she must meant someone else with the same name like me.

But, it strangely bothered me.

Then, Louise-san looked at me and reached out with her hand.

When I grabbed her trembling hand, Louise-san smiled.

「So you came to pick me up huh, Leon.」

「No, umm」

「I'm sorry. I'm really sorry. I'm sorry that Onee-chan, is really a useless Onee-chan. Even though I wanted to protect——**I couldn't protect anything. Everyone did their best to stop the sacred tree but, we didn't make it in time. I'm sorry, Leon.**」



## Part 8

Marie who was treating the injured found a terribly scared girl around the same age with her among them.

That girl had bright pink hair. She was holding her head while crying.

Marie approached and called to her.

「It's fine now. I'll treat your injury too immediately.」

「—Someone like me should just die.」

「What are you saying when you managed to survive until this far!」

Marie got angry by the girl's words, but the person herself was continuing to talk to herself.

「I should die in that place. No, that's wrong. I should have never been born. Everyone died. Because of my fault everyone—both Emile and Sergey died to protect me. Because I did something unnecessary, a lot of people died. I pushed off everything to big sis, I—everything is my fault.」

The trembling girl yelled with a loud voice that everything was her responsibility.

Then one of the injured who heard it stood up.

「Are you a survivor of Lespinasse House?」

The man was seriously injured. He was standing by using a sword as a cane replacement.

His gaze that was filled with naked hatred was pointed toward the pink haired girl Marie was treating.

「Wait a second, this is a medical room! Put down your weapon!」

Marie stood between the two to intermediate.

(Lespinasse House? Could it be, this girl is the main character of the sequel? She mentioned Emile and Sergey, come to think of it they are the names of the sequel's capture targets. Could it be, she failed and entered a bad end?)

Marie never thought that Alzer Principality would meet a bad end.

The injured knights and soldiers inside the medical room forced themselves to stand up one after another.

Even some women wearing maid uniform forced their injured body to stand up and grabbed nearby weapon.

The atmosphere inside the room was starting to turn dangerous. The other injured people were only watching in confusion.

The people who stood up were apparently related to Rault House.

「This is for Alberck-sama.」

The man who stood up first was a man in his forty.

He had good body build and from his appearance he seemed to be a knight of high standing.

That strong looking man with splendid beard on his face was pointing his sword to a girl.

「I told you to stop!」

Marie spread open her hands to protect the girl, but the knights wouldn't back off.

「Move aside! That woman destroyed our homeland! She is the one who killed Alberck-sama and his wife! And even the princess too!」

「T-this is our ship! I'll drive off you guys if you don't listen to me!」

「I'll jump off this ship right away after killing her. That's why, move aside!」

The other injured people tried to stop the armed knights and soldiers, but they wouldn't listen.

「What's with the commotion?」

Marie saw Leon finally coming to there and felt relieved. She dragged the girl until the entrance.

She hid behind Leon's back while explaining the situation.

「The people of Rault House are angry. They insisted to kill this girl and won't listen to me. It looks like this girl is a survivor of Lespinasse House. Because of that the people of Rault House are angry at her.」

When Leon learned that the injured people who were standing up were from Rault House, he immediately told them to move to another room.

「I need to tell you guys about your princess.」

Hearing that, the knight with the highest rank in this place lowered down his weapon and walked toward Leon.

The way he was dragging his feet to walk forward was painful to watch, but that knight approached Leon with his eyes opened wide.

「—Leon-sama?」

Marie was bewildered by the knight's reaction, but Leon himself only scratched his head with a complicated expression.

## Part 9

The people of Rault House are surrounding the bed of Louise-san who is almost completely unconscious. All of them are crying.

「Princess, please open your eyes!」

「Why is our princess is-」

「If even the princess died, then Rault House will-」

Louise-san's right hand is shining with faint green light.

It seemed the sacred tree's crest is anchoring its owner to this world, but even that light is gradually weakening.

At this rate it will be just a matter of time until she died.

The knight of Rault House—a man at his forty who introduced himself as Oliver crumbled on the floor with tears streaming from his eyes.

「I couldn't protect my master, and now even the princess」

The injured maids are holding Louise-san's hands while continuing to call out to her.

I hesitated for a moment seeing them like that, but I can't put the cart before the horse and asked Oliver-san.

「I want to know what happened. Can you tell me what happened at Alzer Principality?  
」

「—Very well. I'll tell you everything.」

Oliver-san started talking with his shoulders still slumped down. What he told me is mostly the same with what Louise-san said.

A large flying ship suddenly appeared and destroyed the principality.

After that it seemed the sacred tree ran wild.

It seemed that the ship that was taken down by the monsters was an evacuation ship that Rault House prepared.

No wonder a lot of the passengers are people from Rault House.

It seemed the ship retrieved refugees at the harbor and departed, but after that they were chased by monsters and ran around all over the place.

We appeared at that timing and now we are here.

After hearing his story, I asked him about what Louise-san said.

「I have one question though. Louise-san called me Leon when she saw me. And it's true that my name is Leon. Do you have any idea about it?」

The people of Rault House who gathered here made a shocked face when they heard my name.

Olvier-san lifted his head and looked up at me, then he talked about Leon of Rault House.

「It's the name of our deceased young master. It was something that had happened more than ten years ago. He was five years old at that time. His atmosphere is similar with you.」

「A young master of Rault House is similar with me?」

「If he is still alive, surely he will be a splendid youth like you. I myself was also surprised when I first saw you.」

It seemed that Leon of Rault House died when Oliver-san was still young.

It's strange being told that a five years old boy is similar with me after they saw me.

「So because of that she mistook me as her little brother huh.」

「What did princess said?」

「—She said sorry that she couldn' t protect anything. It seemed that they tried to stop the sacred tree, but failed.」

Oliver-san and the people of Rault House here shed tears when they heard what Louise-san said.

「—So it was impossible even for Alberck-sama. —If only that girl of Lespinasse House didn't get in the way」

「Is this daughter of Lespinasse House the girl just now?」

It seemed they are really holding a grudge, but please don' t cause any bloodbath inside Partner.

「Aa~, then who is Noelle?」

When I asked about the name that Louise-san mentioned in order to divert their focus, Oliver-san made a complicated expression and averted his gaze from me.

「She is that girl' s twin. Her elder sister' s name is Noelle. She lent her help to stop the sacred tree' s rampage but, it ended in failure.」

「Twin?」

「When Alberck-sama and others risked their life to stop the sacred tree' s rampage, they got in the way and destroyed Alzer!」

So one of the twins of Lespinasse House was cooperative, while the other one got in the way. This is complicated.

I sighed and surveyed the room. The people of Rault House are looking sad because their master and family died in vain.

It looks like they are really looking up to their master and his family. It will be pointless even if I told them to not hold any grudge if it' s like this.

I exited the room.

Waiting outside is Marie who has finished the treatment of the injured for the moment.

She is wearing an apron and gloves, but all of them are soaked with blood.

「How is it?」

「I heard their story but, I still don' t know what is going on in Alzer Principality right now. I learned that the sacred tree is still rampaging even now though.」

「I see. —What are we going to do now?」

「Our job will be finished if we go back and report this.」

There isn' t any need to force ourselves to go until Alzer Principality.

Or rather, the force that we have at hand isn' t reassuring.

Certainly Arroganz and Partner are strong, but it will be a bit dangerous to face an army of more than ten thousand monsters with just them.

It' s not impossible but, there is no need for us to go that far.

When I looked inside the room, I saw the unconscious Louise-san.

「I want to just go back and finish this job though.」

While I' m talking with Marie about our plan going forward, a maintenance robot for the ship' s interior approached while floating up and down.

When it found us, it started moving its body and hands to desperately explain something to us.

「What?」

The maintenance robot is pointing at the direction of the passage that is leading to the hangar.

## Part 10

In the hangar where Arroganz is being serviced.

When I came here with Marie, there is Arroganz with its armors stripped off. He is in the middle of maintenance.

Its internal parts are exposed and its basic frame is laid bare.

It was Arroganz who called us here.

『Luxion found. He is nearby.』

「That guy is here!? Where? Call him here right away!」

If Luxion is here then we will be able to obtain detailed information too.

I wanted to call him right away, but Arroganz said that it's impossible and pressed us to make a choice.

『He is in an area with a lot of magic particle. Can't contact. But, perhaps he is there.』

「Then let's head there right away. With Luxion, then perhaps we will be able to heal Louise-san too.」

『But difficult. Luxion is at the sky above Alzer Principality.』

「Ha?」

『The place where a great swarm of monsters are living. To meet Luxion, we need to break through the monster swarm. What to do master?』

What to do, he asked. Should we forced our way through a swarm of monsters to meet Luxion, or should we return to Hohlfahrt Kingdom just like this?

If we go back then there won't be any danger, but Louise-san will die.

If we forced our way, there is a possibility of Louise-san getting saved, and the situation will also become clear.

But, the most concerning thing here is Luxion.

It couldn't be helped that Marie's suspicion toward Luxion is deepening.

「Wait. The talk about a mysterious ship appearing in the sky, could it be Luxion? That guy, he destroyed Alzer Principality!？」

Why is Luxion at Alzer Principality?

To learn that, we have to meet with Luxion no matter what.

「Arroganz, can we do it?」

Arroganz answered my question.

『—Recommending a switch to heavy armament assault mode.』

「Permitted.」

When I gave my permission, the maintenance robots inside the hangar gathered.

They took out the new armor and weapons of Arroganz from the containers and then they began the switching work.

Marie grabbed my cloth seeing the heavy atmosphere.

「Wait! What are you planning!? There is no need to be reckless. We can just call for Luxion later!」

「I' m going to question him right away.」

A large backpack is attached on Arroganz.

It' s a large booster that is also packed with weapons to the brim.

Orbs of AI are attached to various places on Arroganz.

It seems that he is planning to entrust all the other functions except frame control to other AIs.

Thick armor plates are prepared and large weapons that aren' t usually used are put into Arroganz' s hands.

His form became something that is worthy to be called as fully armed.

The meaning of heavy armament assault mode is just as the name suggested, it' s a mode for charging into enemy territory and fired heavy weapons like there is no tomorrow.

It' s a level up for physical attack.

It' s unclear whether the concept of level up existed in this world though.

## Part 11

Around that time.

At Hohlfahrt Kingdom, the saintess Olivia was in the palace' s office.

It was a room that was prepared for Olivia. Everything inside like the furniture was all extravagant.

Because Julius and others kept bringing extravagant things even if she didn' t say anything, the room was turning really gaudy.

However, no matter how many expensive presents she received, Olivia' s heart wasn' t moved at all.



It was only her hatred toward Julius and others that got fanned up, while her fixation toward Leon who was away from the kingdom was getting stronger.

「I wonder who was it who dispatched Leon away in the investigation team.」

She threw away the report that she had finished reading. Kyle who was standing by inside the room immediately picked it and tidied it up.

Recently Olivia was always in a bad mood.

She used all the authority that she had and planned to invite Leon to the palace.

She intended to place him on her side as her knight. As for his title, she could just appoint him as royal guard or elite guard or whatever.

Anyway she wanted to put him at her side.

And yet, the person himself was going to Alzer Principality leading an investigation team.

If it was like this, even Olivia was unable to call Leon here right away.

Kyle fearfully asked the irritated Olivia.

「A—are you really going to appoint that person as the saintess’ s knight? I don’ t think that his highness will approve it though.」

In fact Julius was desperately protesting when Olivia mentioned that she was going to make Leon into her personal knight.

But, for the current Olivia a protest at that level wouldn’ t hinder her at all.

「It’ s not Julius who can decide that but me. My decision means everything.」

「B—but」

「Kyle, I wonder, whose servant are you?」

「——Olivia-sama.」

Kyle trembled in fear, then he immediately closed his mouth and returned to work.

Olivia turned her gaze to outside the window.

「Perhaps it’ s time.」

She didn’ t said any more, and Kyle also didn’ t ask.

But, the plan inside Olivia was moving to the next stage.

## Part 12

「This cannot be!」

Julius was throwing around his things in anger inside his room in the palace. He looked at a piece of paper and ruffled his hair roughly.

It was a royal edict that appointed Leon as the saintess' s knight.

Olivia gave her counsel and the king Roland agreed to give the official command.

For Julius who wished to consign Leon to oblivion, this was an unforgivable development.

However, it was Olivia who gave the counsel. Even Julius couldn' t deny her.

Inside the palace, Olivia' s influence was getting stronger than even Julius.

A large part of it was also because Duke Redgrave had lost his standing and Margrave Frampton who gained power in his place was strongly supporting Olivia.

What Julius couldn' t forgive wasn' t about him losing influence, but that Olivia was getting obsessed with Leon.

Jilk was also inside the room, but he didn' t criticize Julius' s behavior.

「Your highness' s anger is just. But, Olivia-san has accepted him. If we show a careless action here, we will lose Olivia-san' s trust.」

「I already know that!」

Julius also understood that logically, but his heart couldn' t accept it.

「—Jilk, is it possible to assassinate him?」

And then, Julius sought for a way to kill Leon secretly from his foster brother.

He was Julius' s foster sibling because he was a retainer who had been raised together with him since they were children like brothers.

In the future Jilk would obtain the position as Julius' s close aide.

Because of that, he was also taught about ways that couldn' t be done openly.

「It' s possible but, there will be those who suspect us if he die in this timing. It doesn' t matter even if the rabbles suspect us but, there is a possibility that Olivia-san will suspect us.」

「T-that' s no good. That' s the only thing that can' t be allowed to happen.」

Julius feared getting hated by Olivia.

Olivia was the only meaning of life for Julius right now.

「Why it has to be him, Olivia. Why won' t you look at me?」

### Part 13

The fully equipped figure of Arroganz can be seen on Partner' s deck.

It got put outside the hanger in order to sally out, but its figure is too different from normal.

A catapult is prepared on the deck. There a lot of injured people are gathering to see what' s going on.

They are looking this way like onlookers, but I have no time to bother with them.

Marie held down her hair that are messed up by the wind while confirming with me who is going to enter the cockpit.

「So you' re really going to do it!」

Talking normally in this strong wind will cause the voice to be drowned out, so both of us are talking loudly.

「Obviously! I' m going to see what' s going on with my own eyes! I' ll also give Luxion a punch on his face!」

Marie looked conflicted and turned her gaze to Arroganz and me.

「Still, why is the armor' s color over the top like that huh? There is even rocket attached on the back.」

「Because it' s cool.」

「Which part!? Somehow it looks like it' s bundled up with too much clothes!」

It looks like a girl can' t understand a boy' s romance.

Boy loved over the top armor that is packed full with weapons.

The current form of Arroganz is truly the dream of any boy.

Arroganz is shouldering a large rocket booster, added with all the extra armors and weapons, now he looked a size bigger.

Making use of this equipment is extremely simple.

Arroganz will travel in high speed toward the destination, and after he arrived he will annihilate the enemies with all the firepower he has.

Arroganz will cut across the monsters that we are estimated to encounter on the way.

This is the best way to get closer to the sacred tree.

Unfortunately the rocket booster will be used up and detached when we arrived at the destination, so it will be hard to return back.

If we are unlucky we might get isolated in the middle of nothing but enemies, but I estimated that we will manage somehow.

I got into the cockpit and closed the hatch, then Arroganz' s electronic sound talked to me.

『Preparation all green.』

Arroganz moved his large body and started preparing to launch.

Arroganz that is fixed in place with wire floated up.

『Ignition』

The rocket booster' s nozzle spouted flame with Arroganz' s ignition signal.

The wires got disconnected from the momentum and the iron plank that is prepared behind blocked the flame.

A thunderous roar that is like an explosion reached until inside the cockpit. My ears and body hurt.

「It' s hard to carry out romance in reality huh.」

『Master, you will bite your tongue if you talk.』

After Arroganz warned me, the view in the monitor looked like it' s streaming backward with great speed.

My body got pressed on the seat and even just holding the control stick is difficult.

Why am I doing something like this?

This too is all Luxion' s fault.

I' ll really punch him on the face when I find him.

#### Part 14

After Arroganz flew away, Marie was watching Leon who was at the front of the rocket smoke with worry from the deck.

「That guy, he keep acting recklessly.」

Why was Leon going this far? Marie couldn' t understand——that was what she wanted to say but, she could somehow understand.

Oliver came to deck with a cane supporting his body. He asked her about Leon who was flying away.

「Just what is Leon-sama, no, Leon-dono is planning to do? Also that armor, it' s just too different.」

Oliver was astonished by Arroganz' s performance. Marie gave him a vague answer.

「I also don' t really know, so how about asking Leon when he came back?」

「I-is that so? And, what is the reason for Leon-dono going there?」

Marie sighed at Oliver' s persistence and answered him.

It wasn' t like she was feeling displeased by Oliver. It because she felt like Leon got troublesome things pushed on him.

「He said that he is going to Alzer and defeat the sacred tree.」

「Just by himself!?!」

「That will be enough if it' s him. Let me tell you, he is really strong after all.」

Marie explained while hiding the matter of Luxion, then Oliver looked toward the direction where Arroganz was flying away.

From the direction there was no doubt that Leon was heading toward the principality. He made a surprised face before tears dripped down from his eyes.

Marie rushed toward him in panic seeing that. She supported Oliver who was about to sit down on the deck.

「Wait, are you okay!? If you're feeling pain then go get some rest.」

「That's not it. That person who has the same name like the young master is heading to stop the sacred tree. It feels like fate.」

「Fate? Sorry but, Leon isn't related at all with this matter.」

「Perhaps that's right. But, there is a relation to us. The dream of the young master who died young was to become the guardian who protect the sacred tree.」

Marie recalled that otome game's sequel when she heard the guardian mentioned.

Her old memory vividly revived in her mind. She even recalled the game setting that she had forgotten.

「Guardian? That's the number one big shot in the principality isn't it?」

The sacred tree's guardian. Originally that was the role that would be obtained by the male capture target who got chosen by the main character of that otome game's sequel.

「Alberck-sama, madam, and princess——**young master is going.**」

Oliver spoke of his master and his family while sobbing.

Leon wasn't their young master.

But, it seemed that to Oliver and others, their young master's image had overlapped with Leon.

「——Everyone is expecting too much from that guy.」

Marie felt like Leon's responsibility was getting heavier each day and spoke with a displeased tone.

And then, she was getting doubtful toward this world that wasn't progressing like in the scenario of that otome game.

(Just what in the world is going on? In the first place, I never thought that a bad end would happen. If only that girl called Lelia can speak in detail about what's going on.)

Part 15

When Arroganz arrived at the center of the principality, there is a strange sight unfolding.

「Disgusting-!」

A gigantic and sinister looking plant that is dyed white is moving meanderingly.

Insect type monsters are flying around in its surrounding. They are like black beads whirling around what was once the sacred tree to protect it.

The monster with sinister form that cannot be called as the sacred tree has many red large eyes all over its body.

Those eyes noticed Arroganz' s approach.

「You are too late in noticing!」

『Purging booster.』

The booster on Arroganz' s back is detached and fly toward the monster like a missile.

When the monsters tried to protect the tree monster from the missile by tackling it, it caused a great explosion and a lot of the monster vanished as black smoke.

「So it won' t let itself get defeated easily huh. Arroganz, you can do it right?」

『Yes, master.』

The weapons attached on Arroganz started moving.

The insect monsters are approaching, but the interceptor gatling cannons that are attached on various parts of Arroganz shot them and they vanished.

「Don' t think you guys can approach so easily. The current Arroganz is invincible!」

When Arroganz charged toward the tree monster, the insect monsters on his way got blown away.

Like that Arroganz clung on the tree monster, but it was far bigger than I imagined.

「It really look like a mountain.」

I landed on the monster' s branch, but I' m shocked with how large it is.

Even its branch has enough space for Arroganz to stand on.

Arroganz is categorized as huge among all types of armor, but when I looked at the surrounding scenery, it made me felt like I have been turned into a midget.

「Now then, what are we going to do now?」

『Firing missiles.』

After Arroganz announced, a part of the armor was blown away and missiles showed themselves.

They have drill attached on their tips. The missiles scattered to the surrounding and stabbed the tree monster, then their drill tips rotated and invaded inside.

After a while the missiles exploded from the inside and caused cracks at the surrounding.

Red liquid spurted out from the cracked places. It looked like monster blood.

「Is this thing really a monster?」

『Investigation required.』

「You' re really serious huh. You don' t need to answer seriously like that every time.」

Arroganz strangely serious side is really similar with Luxion.

Arroganz raised the large rifles his hands are holding and started shooting at the fragile looking spots of the tree monster.

Optical weapon severed the monster' s branches and live bullet weapon caused explosion when it hit and spread out the damage.

The tree monster is too gigantic that it' s unable to deal with the small Arroganz.

「So it' s only at this level when we manage to get this close to it. There is nothing to worry about if it' s like this.」

『Insect type monsters are approaching.』

The insect type monsters are converging to defeat Arroganz.

Our gatling guns fired. The insect monsters aren' t allowed to get closer.



But, at this rate our ammo will immediately run out.

「The analysis?」

『Twenty percent remaining.』

「Then let's run around to buy time.」

『In the middle of analyzing. Arroganz can't provide support.』

Arroganz can't control the armor because he is in the middle of searching for the enemy's weak point.

If Luxion is here, I'll be able to leave everything to him. It's too bad.

But, I'm not worried.

「No problem. I'm good at running around.」

『Master is good at running away. Master is amazing. Arroganz committed it to memory.』

「—You don't need to praise me for that, you also don't need to remember it.」

I'm losing my stride if he praised me so sincerely like that.

I wished that he would say something like 「Your specialty is running away? Don't you have any other special skill?」 when I made that kind of joke.

If it's Luxion then he definitely will say that.

I operated the control stick and pedal to move Arroganz.

I passed through between the branches to run from the enemies. The insect monsters chased after us seeing that.

I flew around weaving between the branches. I only shoot down the monsters that were approaching near.

The gatling cannons and missiles that were controlled by the AIs matched Arroganz's movement to kill the enemies.

Arroganz who is defeating enemies one after another just by running around is peerless.

But, sadly the enemy's number is too many.

There is no sign of the enemies running out of reinforcement.

The gatling cannons are spouting out bullets without pause. The bullets are shining from the heat and drew a line at the direction where they were fired.

Each of those lines pierced through multiple monsters and they turned into black smoke.

I will find a spot where there is no enemy and flew there, and sometimes I will break through an enemy swarm and run around. After a while of doing that a happy news came from Arroganz.

『Enemy core found. It's judged that the enemy will stop functioning or perhaps weakened if that core is destroyed!』

「Great job!」

『Displaying the shortest route. It's predicted that touching the enemy and attacking its inside is a valid method.』

There is no guarantee that the enemy will definitely be stopped by destroying this core, but in the first place it's within my expectation.

Besides, Luxion too will surely show up if this monster can't be defeated with that.

「Purge the unusable weapons and unnecessary armors.」

『Roger. Purging parts.』

After Arroganz announced the purging, the weapons and armor parts that are judged as unnecessary got detached one after another.

If seen from the side, perhaps it will look like we are getting disassembled midair?

The armor frame is gradually getting lighter.

Arroganz ended up in a form with fewer armor than usual, and in addition it's carrying a small backpack on its back.

It doesn't carry the usual container.

When the backpack engine that is less reliable than usual spouted fire, the lightened Arroganz accelerated and approached the enemy core.

We ignored most of the approaching enemies and something we kept pushing forward by crashing on the enemies.

The armor frame would shake each time we crashed on a monster, but I gritted my teeth and looked forward.

『Enemy core in sight.』

「Hit it with all of our bullets!」

Arroganz obeyed my order and readied the rifle with both hands.

The rifle fired laser until the barrel became a slag from the heat. Arroganz also fired out all the remaining live bullets.

The last missile pack that was loaded in the backpack is also fired. Now we have no more missile.

When both weapons are not usable anymore, Arroganz threw away the weapons.

And then when the monster's surface got gouged, an object that looked like a koala finally showed itself.

Arroganz landed near the reddish black core that is beating like a heart. Then white tentacles appeared from the surrounding and wriggled around us in order to protect the core.

「This thing, it even has regeneration ability huh.」

When Arroganz stepped forward in order to defeat the monster right away, the tentacles stopped moving for some reason.

The tentacles are convulsing. They looked like they can't move even though they want to.

When I'm about to take a distance because of the suspicious movement, I heard a voice.

『Wait. Please. There is no more time.』

「Who!?!」

I heard a female voice inside the cockpit. I looked left and right to search for the girl's figure.

But I can't see anyone nearby. However, I certainly felt like there is someone beside me.

I'm surprised, but strangely I'm not scared.

And then a from my left side, a girl' s arm reached out and pointed forward.

『Defeat it quickly. If not, this child will really become unstoppable.』

I obeyed the girl' s pained voice and grabbed the control stick while stepping on the pedal.

「Arroganz!」

『Preparing shield pile bunker.』

Arroganz broke into a dash toward the monster' s core and pointed the tips of his shields on both hands forward.

Six stakes are loaded inside them.

I said toward the monster.

「Drop dead!」

The shields are loaded with pile driver.

The sharp stakes are fired with a loud sound. They pierced deeply into the monster' s core.

But, it doesn' t end with that.

『Impact!』

Arroganz yelled with his electronic sound. The six stakes that were fired simultaneously radiated shockwave inside the monster' s core.

The monster' s core shook violently. Then it can' t endure anymore and cracks entered it with fluid spurting out from there.

I saw the fluid turned into crystal when it got exposed to air and muttered.

「How' s that?」

Will the enemy move again or not? As I' m trying to judge the situation, there is a gentle voice of a girl from my left side.

When I turned there, I can see a half transparent green silhouette of a girl.

『Thank you. With this, this child too can sleep peacefully.』

「Just who are you?」

Could it be a ghost? As I thought that warily, the girl looked as though she is smiling.

『I'm Noelle. Also, if by some chance you meet my little sister, I want you to tell her something for me. My little sister's name is Lelia. Lelia Jil Lespinasse. My twin little sister.』

## Part 16

Evening.

Partner finally arrived at the sky above the principality. It's located right above the defeated monster that was the sacred tree in the past.

Arroganz is standing on the deck. It looked slimmer than usual with its armor plating and weapons removed. Vapor is drifting around it from the internal heat.

The maintenance robots are blowing something that looked like white smoke in order to cool the frame.

A lot of people are crying on the deck seeing their completely changed homeland.

Marie is holding the handrail and looked at the scenery below. The scenery spontaneously made her felt chilled on her back.

「How horrible.」

A burnt field is spread out with the sacred tree at the center.

The buildings were blown away into rubbles. There are no sight of people moving below.

It's suspicious if there are even any survivors there.

Oliver who is near Marie is patting down his chest seeing the monster that was formerly the sacred tree lying down unmoving.

「Alberck-sama, everything is over. But, Alzer is already...」

The scenery that they saw on the way here was how the whole continent got turned into a burnt field.

The outrageous sight caused Marie to reconfirm that they are living in an absurd world.

A girl appeared from inside the ship to the deck that is wrapped in such atmosphere.

「The princess, she-!」

Seeing the crying maid, Oliver hurriedly returned to inside the ship.

Marie supported Oliver who is walking unsteadily and she also accompanied him heading inside the ship.

(The bad end really isn't funny at all. Something like this, is just too much.)

## Part 17

Inside Partner.

When I arrived at Louise-san's room, her eyes are opened.

The crest of the sacred tree is vanishing from her right hand.

The power that is tethering Louise-san to this world has already left.

That girl is looking at me.

She is making a very calm expression. Is it the effect of the painkiller—or perhaps, is she unable to even feel pain?

I told her the course of events while carefully choosing the information that I conveyed to her.

「The sacred tree has stopped moving. It doesn't look like it will start moving anymore.」

「I see. Thank you very much. Can you tell me your name for the last time? I wish to remember the name of the hero who saved our country. I can't see anymore, so please let me hear your name at the very least.」

While I'm hesitating for a moment seeing how weak she is, Oliver-san who is being supported by Marie entered the room.

Oliver-san rushed to Louise-san's side and crumbled on his knees beside the bed.

「Princess!」

「Oliver, I'm sorry but I leave the rest to you. It looks like this is it for me.」

Seeing Louise-san's smile, the people of Rault House who gathered around her are sobbing.

Because the people around are also watching, I decided to tell her my name.

「My name is Leon.」

Louise-san looked surprised and tried to lift her upper body, so I approached her and held her hand.

「Leon? No way, really? U-umm」

I can't say anything more to Louise-san who is in shock.

She can just think that her little brother came to help.

Louise-san's hand caressed my face.

「Aa, Leon. So you kept your promise. Onee-chan, can meet you in the end.」

It seemed her consciousness is getting hazy. She is thinking of me as her little brother.

When I kept holding her hand without denying it, Louise-san's hand on my face moved away.

Louise-san are shedding tears happily before she drew her last breath just like that.

## Part 18

I entered a single room in order to keep a promise.

A pink haired girl is inside.

「You are Lelia of Lespinasse House right?」

Lelia who is sitting with her back on the wall is hanging her head down without saying anything.

Marie who also came together with me to visit Lelia let out a small sigh and talked to her.

「There is a message from your big sister.」

「Eh?」

Lelia raised her head. Her face looked terribly haggard.

There are dark circles under her eyes. There is no vitality that can be felt from her.

The incident this time must have really affected her.

「When I touched the sacred tree, I heard the voice of someone who called herself Noelle. She was the priestess wasn't she? She was worried about you.」

「—Lies」

Lelia's eyes moistened and tears spilled out.

I told her Noelle's words.

「She wanted me to tell her stupid little sister. It felt like she got a lot of complaints for you, but she want you to live. Also—she said that she won't be able to help you out anymore, so take care of the rest by yourself somehow.」

The anger of the people from Rault House is genuine.

From the story that I heard from them, there is no doubt that Lelia was involved with the incident.

The huge flying ship appeared in the sky and turned Alzer into a sea of flame.

After that an abnormality occurred with the sacred tree and it released out a ton of monsters.

Unexpectedly it was Rault House that tried to stop the sacred tree.

But, it seemed that Lelia and her friends got in the way.

Louise-san and others said that if only they didn't get in the way, the situation would become manageable with just a bit more.

Marie demanded to Lelia to tell everything.

「Can you tell us everything? We are dispatched from the kingdom to investigate what's going on here. We aren't trying to back any side here.」

Marie tried to emphasize that we are a neutral party, but instead large drops of tears spilled out from Lelia's eyes.

「You're wrong. Everything is my fault. I got a mistaken impression from the start that Rault House is the bad guy and thought that this commotion was also their



work. That was why, I asked Sergey and Emile to get in their way. And yet, that cheat battleship showed up in the sky.]

Marie and I looked at each other hearing her muttering the word cheat.

We are also curious with her perspective of the incident this time but, why was the word cheat came out from her mouth?

The answer immediately came out.

Marie grabbed Lelia's shoulders.

「You, could it be you are a reincarnator!？」

「Eh? H-how did you...」

It seemed that Lelia's thinking capability dropped from her fatigue. She doesn't understand the situation right now.

「We are also reincarnators. More importantly, was it Luxion who you saw in the sky?」

If she knew about that otome game, then surely she also knew about Luxion—**that was what I thought, but Lelia shook her head.**

「I don't know its name. But, it wasn't a normal flying ship. I thought that perhaps it was the type of paid item in the second game. That thing suddenly showed up and attacked. I didn't understand what was going on anymore and just run around like headless chicken—and then, in order to protect me Sergey and Emile...Clayman also **sacrificed himself in order to let me escape.**」

It seemed that the ship was the paid item of the sequel.

I realized the possibility that there might still be other space ships with equal capability like Luxion existing in this world.

Various troublesome information just kept coming.

It seemed that Lelia is opening up her heart a little toward us. She began to talk haltingly.

「Because I'm an idiot, I caused troubles to my big sis Noelle. I reincarnated as twin little sister of the main character and got carried away. Because of that I kept troubling my big sis and everything ended in failure. I never expected that my actions that I thought as good would all come back to bite me in the ass.」

Lelia is talking about her mistake while tears are dripping down from her eyes.

Marie asked Lelia what she had done while keeping her tone as calm as possible.

「Weren' t you able to set up everything well using game knowledge? You also knew about that otome game right?」

Lelia wiped her tears with her sleeve and nodded several times.

I can' t believe that she failed despite having the game knowledge.

「At first I thought that I was doing well. No, that' s wrong. That was just my mistaken impression. Because I knew about the future development, I thought that doing this and that would be good and did as I pleased. Because I thought that I know the future, I kept doing stupid things. That' s why everything became hopeless like this. Because I didn' t notice! Why was the last boss risking his life to protect the country huh? Even though he was the enemy! And yet——」

She spoke as though to divert the responsibility to other, but she was surely also feeling confused that the person who she thought as enemy was actually in the right.

But, Lelia is recognizing her own mistake.

「——In the end, everything is my fault. I ruined everything like this because I decided things one-sidedly. Even though my life has no worth, and yet, big sis told me to live. This is just strange. ——Even though big sis should be the one to survive」

Lelia was crying while regretting her past actions.

We learned that Alzer was destroyed because of Lelia, but we are unable to blame her.

Marie looked up to me.

「Leon, this is」

「——The worst.」

I saw how we would end up just like Lelia in the future.

## Part 19

Olivia and Marquis Frampton were having a meeting in the palace of Hohlfahrt Kingdom.

The two were talking while drinking wine in the luxurious visitor room, but the two of them weren't even looking at each other's face.

Marquis Frampton was standing beside the window as he looked at the scenery outside.

Olivia was leaning down deeply into her sofa as she crossed her legs.

But she threw her wine glass when she heard what Marquis Frampton said.

The glass crashed near Marquis Frampton and glass fragments scattered, but the person himself didn't look bothered at all.

Olivia asked him with a forced tone.

「I didn't hear what you just say. Can you say it one more time?」

Even with Olivia clearly being angry, Marquis Frampton explained to her once more while still turning his back on her.

「We signed a cease-fire agreement with Fanoss Dukedom. From here on they will be under our rule.」

「The plan is to destroy the dukedom right? The army is also being formed for that. Do you think the military will agree if you tell them to stop after coming this far?」

Olivia was dissatisfied by Marquis Frampton's decision. She tried to change his decision with a sound argument.

But, it seemed that Marquis Frampton had been doing negotiation outside of Olivia's knowledge.

「The kingdom has also become extremely weary. We should take reparation from the dukedom and let the military rest for a while. Fortunately her highness Heltrude is within our grasp. We can just educate her so that she can become a splendid queen.」

Marquis Frampton planned to make Heltrude marry with a man who was convenient for his faction and ruled the dukedom like that.

Olivia narrowed her eyes as she stared at Marquis Frampton's back.

「So you are going against me.」

Marquis Frampton turned around and smirked.

He was talking about the plan going forward, but his tone became condescending as though he was talking to a little girl.

「Right now I' m the leader of the biggest faction. Don' t think that even the saintess can just have everything going her way.」

Marquis Frampton who was already planning to obtain the kingdom didn' t even try to hide his ambition.

He was acting as stronger than Olivia position-wise.

「Be careful to not offend me from here on. You have a wonderful talent as the saintess, but putting it another way that' s all there is to it. I can prepare as many replacements as I want to take your place.」

Marquis Frampton who had put the palace under his rule was thinking that discarding Olivia and preparing a puppet saintess to take her place would also be simple.

It seemed that he planned to prepare a saintess that would follow every single order from him without regard of the puppet' s capability.

Marquis Frampton gave Olivia a warning.

「You should refrain from acting too willfully from here on. Besides—you will be troubled if I expose all of your wicked deeds until now correct? If you want to live in the palace as the queen, it will be wiser for you to not go against me.」

Marquis Frampton left the visitor room while laughing loudly.

Olivia' s body trembled after she was left alone—then she began to laugh with a loud voice after a while.

She wasn't trembling from frustration.

She was simply holding back her laughter of how incompetent Marquis Frampton was.

「What a fool. Did he think that I' ll obey with just a threat? It seems that he is thinking to discard me but, it' s too bad. —I have been planning to discard you from the start.」

Olivia had been planning to betray Marquis Frampton from the start when she joined hand with him.

She had also been making preparation for that.

The only difference was whether she would do it sooner or later.

「It's unfortunate, you would be able to live slightly longer if only you are obedient.」

Olivia stood up and began taking action.

## Part 20

「Let go! Who do you think I am!!」

Marquis Frampton who was dragged toward the execution place was showing a desperate resistance.

But, he only resisted in vain and ended up getting fixed onto the chopping block.

It was Marquis Frampton's retainers who dragged him until the place of execution.

The one who was leading the retainers was Julius.

Julius stood in front of Marquis Frampton and looked down on him with a severe gaze.

He unsheathed the sword hanging on his waist and pointed the tip toward Marquis Frampton.

「Your retainers has informed all of your wrongdoings to the palace. I never thought that you were colluding with the dukedom behind the scene even though all of my comrade in arms risked their life to obtain victory. Furthermore, a cease-fire agreement? You damn traitor」

The sword's tip poked Marquis Frampton's hook nose.

Marquis Frampton grimaced from the pain and yelled toward Julius while forgetting his place.

「What victory you youngster! How much damage do you think the war is causing? How much the kingdom will benefit even if we continue the war like this? You fool who don't even understand that and simply rejoice in victory! This ceasefire is for the benefit of the kingdom——」

「——Do it.」

Marquis Frampton continued to talk, but Julius coldly ordered his execution.

There was a thudding sound when the beheading blade came down.

Julius sheathed his sword and spread out his arms as he looked up to the sky.

「Olivia, I did as you said. This time you're going to look at me aren't you?」

The one who ordered Julius to execute Marquis Frampton was Olivia.

## Part 21

Leon's master who was watching the last moment of Marquis Frampton at the execution place shook his head seeing Julius laughing while looking up to the sky.

「This flow cannot be stopped anymore by the looks of it.」

He showed an expression of resignation, but then it changed to a look of determination.

And then he turned his back toward the knights and soldiers who rejoiced of the death of evil and left the execution place.

「Saintess Olivia, I won't allow you to do as you please.」

## Part 22

At that time Olivia was making her way to the mansion where Heltrude was confined.

A comfortable room was prepared as her prison because she was a royalty.

Olivia narrowed her eyes seeing the room.

「This is a really nice treatment for a criminal. I hope you can tell me how do you feel about it.」

Heltrude behaved courageously toward the hateful gaze that was directed at her.

「What an improper way of acting for the saintess. Also, I wasn't the one who asked to be given this room. More importantly, has my treatment been decided already? Marquis Frampton mentioned that I will be able to get out of here soon.」

Olivia opened the door and entered inside. She placed the wine bottle and a glass that she brought on the round table in the room.

And then she smiled kindly.

「I' ll be troubled if you live. I need the dukedom to fight till the end you see. That' s why, will you become a tragic princess for me? If you die, I think that the dukedom will continue shedding a lot of blood for this pointless war.」

Heltrude was getting cold sweat, but she wasn' t agitated. It seemed she had anticipated this.

「So you plan to fight until the dukedom is destroyed.」

「That' s almost right.」

「Eh?」

「I have no intention of ending this as a mere war. I' ll have the dukedom vanish literally. That country and also its people are unnecessary.」

Heltrude was shocked by Olivia' s words and made a disbelieving face.

「You will go that far? Do you hate the dukedom to that degree!? They said that you are a saintess who is filled with love——」

「——Don' t misunderstand little girl.」

Olivia' s wrath boiled up instantly. It made Heltrude' s words to get caught up in her throat.

Olivia corrected Heltrude' s misunderstanding.

She felt like expressing her true intention toward the girl who would die after this.

「I hate everything. Whether it' s this country, and your country, and also all the nobles and people who are living carefreely there, I loathe them all. I' ll destroy both the dukedom and the kingdom. I' ll destroy everything related to Hohlfahrt, and then I' ll make a new country here together with Lea. That will become the correct form of this country.」

Olivia' s wrath only dispersed at the moment when she muttered Lea' s name.

Heltrude finally speak out.

「What are you saying? Even though you are the saintess」

Heltrude couldn' t hide how shaken she was by Olivia' s objective.

She surely never even imagined in her wildest dream that the saintess would say that she wanted to destroy her own country.

Olivia made a dark smile and told her that the dukedom's role was over.

「Both you and your country has fulfilled your role. Thank you for your hard work until now.」

「Just what made you to be like this?」

「There is no need for you to know.」

Olivia said that there was no need to tell her anymore than this and closed her mouth.

Heltrude considered pushing Olivia aside to run away from her prison, but she immediately gave up and shook her head.

It seemed that she didn't think that she could win against Olivia.

After realizing that, Heltrude poured the poisoned wine into the glass.

Olivia praised Heltrude who accepted her defeat with grace.

「Good girl.」

But, Heltrude gulped the poison without replying.

She drank up the whole glass in one gulp. Then she looked down and muttered her little sister's name.

「Rauda, live.」

Olivia who knew that Heltrude was referring to Heltrauda spoke cruelly to Heltrude who was going to do after this.

「You don't need to worry, your little sister will soon follow after you. Around this time, the internal of the dukedom should be falling into civil war as they pushed responsibility to each other.」

Olivia covered her lips with her hand and left the prison.

「I hope you can have a good dream at the end.」

## Part 23

In the prison that Olivia just left behind.

It became for Heltrude to stand and she sat down on her bed.



「What a bad taste. Couldn' t she prepare a kinder poison?」

Her breathing became short and her chest was feeling pain.

Her body collapsed on the bed and her little sister' s face surfaced in her mind.

「I have told Rauda what I should tell her. That' s why, if it' s her then she will surely be fine. That girl is more dependable than me, so surely with her even the country——」

Heltrude bit her lips and her tears soaked the bed sheet.

「Rauda, I' m sorry. Onee-chan can' t protect you.」

The wellbeing of her little sister who would be left alone weighed her.

And then, at the end she wished to see her little sister' s face just once more.

Before she departed, they were being monitored so Heltrude could only push Rauda away coldly.

「Please at least allow Rauda to be happy——」

Heltrude was suffering, but her eyes snapped wide open when a powerful impact shook her room.

「Kyah! W-what!?!」

When she noticed her room was filled with sand and dust. It blocked her sight.

But, she could see light shining in from the outside.

When wind blew inside and cleared the sand and dust away, there was a gray armor before her gaze.

『——So I didn' t make it in time.』

She heard a young man' s voice muttering in frustration.

The armor held its hand forward.

『I' ll bring you out from here.』

Heltrude somehow lifted up her upper body, but she shook her head.

「It' s no use. I don' t have long to live.」

『My role is to send you back to your country. Isn' t there anyone who you want to meet back home?』

Just who was the one asking this person to do this? Heltrude questioned that, but because she had no composure she spontaneously answered who she wanted to meet.

「I want to meet—my little sister. I want to meet with Raudaaa」

Tears flooded out.

If it was possible, she at least wanted to meet with Rauda. She conveyed her feeling.

After Heltrude desperately conveyed it with her body that was violated by poison, the young man promised her.

『I' ll definitely bring you to her.』

The large armor took out Heltrude from the room and flew to the sky.

## Part 24

「What the hell! Really what the hell!? Suddenly saying that you want to rescue a princess of the enemy country, spare me from something like this!」

Marie is protesting while half crying, but her hands don' t stop healing Heltrude-san who is lying on the bed.

The gentle and warm light of healing magic enveloped her and delayed the poison' s progression.

If possible I wanted her to be healed but, it' s impossible for both Marie and me to do that.

I turned my gaze to Luxion who is observing the situation from a little distance away.

「Can' t something be done?」

『It' s already too late. Her life is being tethered down using magic right now, but it won' t be strange even if she die anytime now. Good grief—new mankind is really obstinate.』

Luxion' s words conveyed his feeling of annoyance.

For Luxion, Heltrude-san is a descendant of new mankind and not a subject for protection.

「So she is really beyond saving?」

When I confirmed just to make sure, Luxion averted his red lens from me and answered.

Is it just my imagination that it looked like he is feeling some guilt?

『The problem is the type of poison. The poison is created from magic and I' m in the middle of investigating it right now.』

It' s impossible even for Luxion to cure the poison because it was created with magic.

I stopped talking with Luxion and asked Marie how much time Heltrude-san has remaining.

It' s to check whether we will make it in time or not regardless of whether she could be saved or not in the end.

「Can she make it to meet her little sister?」

Marie shook her head. Her blonde hair was disheveled.

「I don' t know! More importantly, why did you accept this request huh? We will become wanted men in the worst case.」

「Because it' s a request from master.」

「Are you stupid!? This is a crime!」

「Then, would it be better to not save her?」

「I also don' t want that! But—**just what should we do here.**」

Before we returned to the capital' s harbor, an urgent notification came to the Alzer investigation team.

I received a letter from master and then we hurriedly headed to save Heltrude-san.

I was asked to do two things.

First is rescuing Heltrude-san and bringing her back to the dukedom.

—I didn' t make it in time though.

「I was too late for everything. Whether it's for this princess, and also with Alzer……」

After I muttered that, Marie spoke of her uneasiness with a meek expression.

「Have we, committed some kind of mistake? As I thought, wouldn't it be better if we didn't do anything? Because we got involved—**that's why**」

We got involved with that otome game's scenario.

But, partly it was also because we got dragged in.

Was it a mistake to help Olivia-san in the field trip? Would nothing happen if at that time I just watched without doing anything? I also don't think that's the right answer.

That's exactly why I'm troubled. —**Just what was wrong?**

Recently I often thought about Lelia who failed in Alzer.

Because I can't say that we aren't committing the same mistake.

I can't find any answer and feel troubled. It's at that timing Luxion told me that we have arrived to the principality.

『It looks like we made it in time. But, it seems there is civil war breaking out.』

「Ha?」

『A part of the nobles caused a rebellion. It will be troublesome to allow Heltrude to meet with Heltrauda in this situation.』

When Marie and I turned toward Luxion, he told us that currently there are civil war between the royal family and the nobles in the dukedom.

## Part 25

The palace of Fanoss Dukedom was surrounded by the airships of the rebel nobles.

The cannons of the battleships were pointed toward the palace and fired cannon shells one after another.

The nobles called themselves as the revolution army and there was the figure of Count Gerard in the flagship.

He was giving order to the knights and soldiers while acting as though they were in the side of justice.

「Fanoss royal family is responsible for the war! Who was it who pushed the war that had no chance of victory!? It was the royal family that pushed for war even though we were at peace with the kingdom. Make them take responsibility! We have to show justice to them for the sake of our compatriots who died in war too!」

Gerard was lining up words like justice and responsibility, but what was going on inside his heart was something horrible.

(Someone has to take responsibility. The royal family exist for this kind of time. Those little girls were only useful as decoration, but now let's have them be useful for me.)

Gerard was one of the pro war faction who pushed for war, but when the situation turned bad he blamed Heltrauda saying that everything was the royal family's responsibility.

He didn't feel any guilt at all in regard to that.

(I'll purge away everyone who is in my way and become the leader of the new dukedom. Marquis Frampton is arranging things for me in the capital. So it won't matter at all for me no matter how much the dukedom got harmed.)

The other nobles and knights and the military officers who joined this rebellion were also in the pro war faction.

At this rate the kingdom military would come attacking and they would lose their life.

Before that happened they would make Heltrauda took responsibility and presented themselves as obedient vassal to the kingdom. That was the purpose of this rebellion.

「Justice is at our side!」

(Now that Bandell is also gone, I can act as I please. After all until now I couldn't move freely because of that guy.)

The one who just barely reined in the pro war faction from doing as they pleased was Bandell.

But, even that Bandell had died in battle.

There was almost nobody in the pro war faction who would stop Gerard and others.

Part 26

Inside the palace.

The people protecting Heltrauda were gathered inside a room that was solidly made.

The general in charge of the defense was sweating coldly by the reports that were coming in one after another.

「The magic wall won' t hold!」

「The damage to the palace keeps increasing!」

「The armor' s number isn' t enough. We won' t last if we got infiltrated like this!」

The general who got stubble on his face swung his fist on the desk. He cursed the nobles who rebelled.

「Those damn traitors! How dare they try to sacrifice her highness so they can escape responsibility by themselves!」

The relatively decent knights and soldiers are remaining, but they couldn' t deal with the sudden rebellion and were forced into a hard fight.

Heltrauda who was sitting on her chair stood up and gave an order.

「It' s over. Announce my surrender.」

The anxious general persuaded Heltrauda to not surrender.

「Please stop! At this rate your highness will get killed.」

Heltrauda shook her head.

「You have fought well until now. Besides, there is still Onee-sama who is being captured in the kingdom. Even without me, the dukedom will remain.」

「Your highness」

The surrounding people are shedding tears, and then the palace was rocked fiercely.

Heltrauda almost fell, but the maids caught her and the general yelled.

「Have they broken through!?!」

And then, a sildier rushed in to report about what happened outside.

「T-trouble!」

Part 27

「Open the path you bastards!」

「I' ll shoot anyone who get in the way!」

I walked in the corridor of the palace while carrying Heltrude-san.

We forcefully infiltrated the palace with Arroganz and made Luxion showed the way.

『Please follow this path forward.』

「It' s really convenient with you here huh.」

『Why yes, thank you.』

Marie walked in front of us. She was holding a shotgun in her hands and threatened any knight and solider who approached.

Walking in the castle with the three of us like this made me recalled the night when we obtained the magic flute.

The palace is being shaken by bombardment from outside. Sand and dust are falling from the ceiling.

In front of us there, Heltrauda appeared with guards protecting her.

「Onee-sama!」

Heltrauda-san came running. Heltrude-san noticed her and opened her eyes.

Her complexion was bad and her lips were also turning pale.

She looked at Heltrauda-san with lightless eyes and smiled.

—Recently this kind of thing kept happening. I' m sick of it.

Louise-san' s face flashed in my mind. I shook my head to clear my mind.

Heltrude-san held up her hand.

「Rauda, I' m sorry. Onee-chan, couldn' t do anything」

Heltrauda-san strongly gripped the lifted up hand.

「That' s not true! That' s not true at all. That' s why—don't leave me alone. I don't wanna. I don't want to be alone.」

The big sister Heltrude-san made a troubled smile seeing her sobbing little sister.

「I' m sorry that I' m leaving you alone. But you see, there is something that I want Rauda to do.」

「Onee-sama?」

「Stop the saintess. She is dangerous. The kingdom is already half controlled by the saintess. She is planning to destroy this country and also her own country.」

「Something like that」

「It' s true. That' s why Rauda, put this country in order. And then protect the people. Even for a mere puppet, that' s still the responsibility of the royal family.」

「—Yes」

The knights and the soldiers around us who are regarding us warily opened their eyes wide hearing Heltrude-san' s words.

It seemed they couldn' t comprehend how could the saintess plan to destroy her own country.

Even Marie and I are the same.

It' s too shocking that I interrupted the two' s conversation.

「What do you mean? Did Olivia-san say that? Really!?!」

Then Marie pushed me back.

「Hey, this isn' t the time!」

「S-sorry」

I got in the way of the sisters' farewell in this life. When I apologized, Heltrude-san spoke of the truth with a pained smile.

「The saintess Olivia certainly told me. That she is going to destroy everything related to Hohlfahrt. The dukedom too was descended from Hohlfahrt royal family' s blood if you traced back our lineage. For her we are also her enemy.」



Olivia-san said that she will destroy everything?

Blood left Marie' s complexion.

I recalled Olivia-san when she yelled for help during our meeting.

Really——just how did things turn out like this?

「Rauda, become the queen. And then, fight the kingdom, protect the people.」

「B-but, the dukedom doesn' t has the strength for that.」

Heltrauda-san understood that it' s impossible to oppose the kingdom with her country' s military strength.

That' s why, Heltrude-san looked at me.

Master' s second request.

It' s to join hand with the dukedom.

I came to this place as the envoy for that.

「It seems that the nobles of the kingdom also don' t intend to obey the current royal family. They promised to lend us a hand for that. The one who saved me is the knight who defeated Bandell.」

The gazes of everyone who gathered here turned toward me.

Heltrauda-san' s gaze on me turned grim.

「——The rumor that there is a masked knight who defeated Bandell has spread even in the dukedom. I never imagined that such person actually exist.」

Just for an instant I thought to correct her for calling me masked knight, but I don' t want to get in the way of the two' s conversation so I helplessly stayed quiet.

Besides, I can' t keep calm from being looked at with gazes of shock and hatred by the surrounding.

Heltrude-san continued talking even while being in pain.

「First put this country in order. Rauda, there is no one else but you who can.」

Heltrauda-san pressed her forehead on Heltrude-san.

「It' s impossible for me. Onee-sama should be the one who become queen.」

「Don' t ask for the impossible. I won' t last long. I will watch over you from here on.」

「Onee-sama.」

「I' m glad I can meet you at the end. I always love you forever, my beloved sister—**Heltrauda**」

Heltrauda-san started crying. Then Heltrude-san turned her gaze to me.

「Leon-dono, can you listen to my request?」

「—Is it the guys outside?」

I thought that she was going to ask me to defeat the traitors outside, but Heltrauda-san powerlessly shook her head while smiling.

「There is also that but, what' s important is Rauda. Please protect this child in exchange of the dukedom' s support.」

「No, I」

When I' m about to say that I can' t hold that much responsibility, Heltrude-san stared at me with eyes that has lost their light.

「I hate you who killed Bandell.」

「—Of course you are.」

I killed the black knight who was the hero of the dukedom.

It' s only natural for her to resent me for that.

Even so I' m bewildered that she is suddenly speaking out her true feeling like that. Then Heltrude-san cursed me.

What' s more that' s an extraordinarily nasty curse.

「That' s why I curse you. Because if a strong and kind knight like you hear my last wish, you will surely make it come true.」

「I' m kind? Also this talk about curse doesn' t sound peaceful at all.」

「It' s a wish. It' s a hope for me but a curse for you. What I believe in isn' t your country or the nobles. It' s you yourself.」

「You' re overestimating me. Even so—you are a more horrible person than I expected.」

That' s certainly a curse.

「If it' s for my cute little sister, I' ll put one or two curses to other people.  
—Please, save my little sister Heltrauda. I'm begging you. Kind—mister knight—」

Heltrude-san ran out of strength.

After I entrusted her to the knights of the dukedom, Marie grabbed my arm.

「You' re going to accept? Stop that! You' re really going to break one day. This isn' t like you isn' t it? Doing something like this isn' t in your character at all.」

Marie who is worried about me is looking terribly frightful for some reason.

「Joining hand with the dukedom isn' t a bad plan at all.」

「But!」

「There is also my responsibility of neglecting things until now. Besides, I have Luxion with me so I won' t lose.」

I naturally turned my gaze at Luxion.

Luxion replied with an electronic voice that doesn' t let guess his feeling at all.

『Defeat is impossible as long as I' m here.』

Marie let go of my arm and muttered in frustration. Looks like she still can' t accept this.

「That isn' t it. That isn' t it at all.」

## Part 28

The nobles who were holding the advantage until just now around the palace were running around trying to escape.

Gerard who was riding the flagship was frightened seeing the armor that appeared from the palace.

He ordered the flying ship' s crews to run away quickly.

「What are you doing! The opponent is the guy who defeated the black knight!」

The flagship reversed direction to escape. From its bridge, they could see the allied flying ship flying beside them slowly falling toward the ground with flame enveloping it.

The allied armors flying around were being chased around by objects that looked like a cylinder.

When the cylinders hit they would explode and the target would fall toward the ground.

The flagship that was a huge flying ship was slow in reversing direction.

Gerard was leaking out cold sweat and trembling because they would end up as a mere target like this.

「Bring us away from here quickly! This is an order!」

「We are trying!」

In this chaotic battlefield, a lowly sailor could speak rudely toward a count like Gerard.

Both Gerard and the people around him were so panicked that no one could criticize such rudeness.

The cause of that was also because everyone here somehow managed to sense it.

Someone yelled.

「Hih! The monster came!」

Their allies were being shot down one after another in this battlefield. Before they realized it the flagship had become the last survivor.

What appeared and peered into the bridge was an armor with black and grey coloring.

The armor looked boorish and fiendish. It swung down its battle axe to the bridge.

The armor's hand reached in from the slashed spot and forcefully widened the opening.

The armor looked down on Gerard and others and gave a demand of surrender.

『Give up already.』

The entrance of the kingdom's armor that defeated the black knight caused everyone in the bridge to lose any will to resist and they fell down on the floor.

Only Gerard understood that he wouldn't be saved even if he surrendered here, so furiously protested at the armor.

「Why is the kingdom's knight is here!? So her highness is connected with the kingdom! This is an alarming situation. That traitorous princess has to explain the situation properly—」

Gerard desperately questioned the princess—Heltrauda's crime in order to survive, but the armor forcefully stopped him from continuing with a swing of its fist.

The armor's fist was swung down in front of Gerard and the floor dented greatly.

Surely Gerard would have died if the fist got just a bit closer to him.

Gerard weakly crumpled down on the floor. Seeing that, the kingdom's armor flew up to the sky.

What appeared after that were the knights of the palace.

They boarded the flagship one after another and captured Gerard and the nobles of pro war faction.

## Part 29

Around the time Leon was rampaging in the dukedom.

In the palace of Hohlfahrt Kingdom, Julius eltrude heard about the matter of Heltrude and rejoiced.

「Is it true!? It was definitely Arroganz!？」

Julius grabbed the shoulders of Jilk who brought the report and shook him strongly from how happy he was.

Jilk forcefully removed Julius's hands and tidied his messed up hair and outfit while continuing his report.

「It's true. The people working in the confinement mansion said that they saw Arroganz. That armor has unique appearance, so there is almost no mistake.」

Leon rescued Heltrude.

But, from the kingdom's perspective it was definitely a traitorous action.

Julius rejoiced because Leon himself gave him the justification to attack him.

With this even with Olivia's back up, few people would defend Leon.

Julius laughed at the carelessness of Leon who wasn't here.

「What a foolish thing to do. This is a failure that cannot be excused. Bartfalt, it's over for you now.」

Julius started laughing loudly, but Jilk was refraining himself to only smile.

Jilk himself wanted to laugh at Leon, but he was an imprudent person.

He cautioned Julius to not criticize Leon openly.

「Forgive me for disturbing your highness's happiness, but we shouldn't criticize him too much.」

「Why?」

Julius turned a sharp gaze toward Jilk.

Jilk shrugged and taught Julius the problems.

「It's Olivia-san. No matter the reason, she would definitely become sad if we move openly in regard to this.」

「Y-you're right.」

Julius too turned weak when Olivia's name was mentioned.

But, his wish to kill Leon was also strong.

Jilk gave a suggestion to such Julius.

「Let's use Lutoart.」

「Does that guy has any use? An unreliable fellow like that?」

Julius recalled Lutoart's unreliable figure when he met him and became uneasy.

Could that guy really defeat Leon?

He could only imagine how it would end up in failure.

「Let's make Lutoart expose Bartfalt House's wicked deed. With the situation like this, let's exaggerate the accusation somewhat and make him a complete villain. With that, the people who ask for the subjugation will also increase.」

Jilk suggested to unite the opinion inside the palace to agree with the subjugation, so later they would also be able to participate while pretending to be reluctant.

Julius agreed with Jilk' s suggestion.

「That' s a good idea. And then what about Lutoart?」

「Let' s dispatch him as the commander of the advance unit. He will lose anyway, but it will make a beautiful story of a young knight who fight for justice.」

「Lutoart is more useful than I imagined huh.」

The two smiled and left the room.

### Part 30

A few days later.

Lutoart was appointed as the commander of the subjugation army against Bartfalt.

The number of flying ships he led was ten ships.

All of them were old type ships, but from Lutoart' s perspective, commanding ten flying ships was a great promotion for him.

Before his departure, his mother Zora and his elder sister Merce came to the harbor with dressed up appearance.

Zora praised Lutoart who became a commander.

「This is excellent, Lutoart. You have obtained great success. As expected from my son.」

Merce also rejoiced from Lutoart' s success because they would also receive the spillover from it.

「All the wealth of that baron house will become ours if you succeed. Lutoart, do your job properly.」

Lutoart slapped his own chest.

「Leave it to me. With this many ships, that kind of hick countryside will turn into sea of flame right away. No matter how strong Leon is, he won' t be able to do anything against this number.」

Lutoart was scared of battle and never experienced real fighting even once. He was underestimating Leon' s strength.

No matter how much the people around him explained just how great Leon's achievement was, he only thought that they were rumors that got embellished in the battlefield anyway.

He got into cloud nine by the number of ten flying ships and couldn't see reality very well.

「His highness Julius has told me. If I succeed, I will be appointed as a court noble with the rank of count.」

Court noble didn't have territory, but they could live in the royal capital. And becoming a court noble with the rank of count could be considered as a great success.

Both Zora and Merce also rejoiced hearing that.

「Do your best Lutoart!」

「Make this a success no matter what!」

Lutoart made a salute that he wasn't used to make to answer the two's expectation on him.

「I'll definitely come back with good news.」

Lutoart promised the two that he would succeed and boarded his flying ship.

## Part 31

The fleet was heading toward Bartfalt territory.

Inside the bridge of an old flying ship, Lutoart was wearing a ceremonial military uniform with excessive decoration.

The military personnel scoffed in ridicule when they saw Lutoart's appearance and behavior, but the person himself didn't realize that and acted like a big shot.

「Oi, we still aren't there yet?」

Lutoart kept asking when they would arrive every one hour. The crews in the bridge were fed up from it.

「Still not yet. How about taking a rest if you don't have anything to do?」

The crews didn't respect Lutoart.



The reason was because Lutoart was an amateur.

Lutoart hadn't done anything since he graduated from the academy. Originally he wasn't someone who could become a commander.

The military personnel who got this person pushed on them due to the order from above only had dissatisfaction.

Lutoart refused to rest.

「No way I can rest. It's a chance that I finally grasped.」

For Lutoart, this was the great chance to overturn his situation.

In the past Lutoart got scared and ran away from the battlefield. Because of that he was treated as coward in noble society.

In contrast Leon and Nicks performed wonderfully in the battlefield and obtained success.

Due to that Lutoart got mocked as someone inferior than a mistress's sons and tasted a horrible humiliation.

For Lutoart, this was a justified revenge even though it was nothing more than his unreasonable resentment.

「I'll kill them and take away everything they—」

Lutoart chewed on his thumbnail while mumbling to himself, but he couldn't finish his sentence.

「Flying ship sighted! Their crests are—**Redgrave House and Count Bartfalt House's crests!** They numbered thirty ships!」

Lutoart raised his waist from his chair.

「Why!？」

Why were Redgrave House and Nicks here?

Lutoart who originally intended to destroy his family with the violence of number was flustered because the enemy appeared with three times his number.

「They fired!」

The military personnel yelled.

「Deploy the shield quickly!」

「No good. This ship' s output won' t be able to endure that!」

Lutoart' s flying ship was bombarded with cannon shells unceasingly. It immediately got enveloped in flame.

「No! I don' t wanna to die in this kind of placeeeeeeee!!」

## Part 32

Nicks who annihilated the subjugation army was looking down at the sea from a flying ship' s deck.

A fragment of Lutoart' s destroyed ship was floating on the sea and swaying due to the waves.

Standing beside that Nicks was Gilbert who was leading Redgrave House' s fleet.

Gilbert thanked Nicks who was a count.

「Thank you for Nicks-dono' s cooperation.」

Nicks made a conflicted expression due to the thanks that he received.

He wasn' t used with an eldest son of a duke house treating him politely, but even more than that his heart' s composure couldn' t keep up with the current situation.

「I have no other choice but to lend a hand after hearing that my parent' s home would be destroyed. I' m amazed that Dorothea and Roseblade House allowed this. It should be safer for them to hand me over to the kingdom.」

When he heard that a subjugation army was dispatched to his parent' s territory, Nicks thought that he would be immediately handed over to the kingdom.

But, that didn' t happen.

He was confused by that. In respond Gilbert made a meaningful smile and explained the situation to him.

「Roseblade House isn' t a house that cannot read the trend of the times that they will wag their tail to the current royal family.」

「—Are you really planning to talk directly to Leon? My family is just a baron house. Is it really necessary for the eldest son of a duke house to personally head out?」

Gilbert came here in order to invite Leon.

「He has been taking care of my little sister. Besides, I have high hope to all of you.」

### Part 33

Olivia let out a deep sigh at the palace.

She crushed the report she was reading in her fist and threw it away.

「Man' s jealousy is always unsightly no matter the era.」

She spat out that sentence. Kyle who picked up the report asked her in fear.

「I heard that Bartfalt House will be subjugated but, is it alright for Olivia-sama to not do anything? Err, Leon' s——」

「I had told you to attach the befitting honorific didn' t I?」

Olivia narrowed her eyes with killing intent at Kyle' s rudeness toward Leon.

Kyle hurriedly corrected himself.

「Is it alright for Olivia-sama to not save Leon-sama!?!」

Olivia showed an expression that was tinged with sorrow.

「It' s pointless. Julius and others are going to act on their own anyway. It looks like they have used Lutoart as a disposable pawn.」

Arroganz that Leon piloted was amazing, but taking Bartfalt House' s battle strength into consideration too, Olivia judged that Lutoart had no chance of victory.

In fact the news that they had been defeated would soon arrive.

There was something more unforgivable than that.

Olivia let out a thin smile.

「I wonder if it was Lea' s blood in him that made him sometimes did crazy things? Like how he lent a hand to the dukedom' s princess. It' s a detestable act but, it' s great.」

She was rejoicing while also angry.

Kyle was unable to understand that complicated feeling of Olivia.

「U-umm」

「There is no way Leon will lose against just this much. In fact Lutoart will definitely lose. Even so, Redgrave House also moved huh.」

Even though it was a chaotic situation, Olivia was feeling happy that the obstacles were vanishing one after another.

Redgrave House rebelled.

It seemed that nobles were gathering one after another to lend them a hand.

In order to oppose those nobles, the kingdom planned to intercept them with Julius as the supreme commander.

Olivia felt unbearably happy.

「Now then, I wonder who is going to vanish next.」

(As long as Lea and I are the last one surviving, then the others don't matter at all.)

## Part 34

Partner returned to the port of my family home.

And then I am facing father in my family's mansion.

Father is injured and lying down on bed. He is making a conflicted expression hearing my story.

Does he want to be angry, to feel shocked, or cry?

His expression keep changing rapidly before it settled in resignation at the end.

He must have a lot of things that he want to say, but it seems he is prioritizing the important matter for now.

He is really a capable father.

「That's a really heavy responsibility for a countryside noble.」

「Agreed.」

After I finished telling father what happened at Alzer, the matter of me lending a hand to the dukedom, and the information that I obtained at the capital, father made his decision.

「Leon, I can't make the decision. I have also talked with Nicks and Gilbert-dono, but I can't make heads or tails of the situation.」

Big bro and Gilbert-san visited here just a bit before I returned.

It seemed that big bro immediately went back, but it seemed that Gilbert-san checked on Angelica-san first before returning.

More importantly, I was more surprised by the talk that Lutoart came attacking here.

If it was that guy then it was certainly possible though.

「It's troubling if father can't decide though?」

I pressed father to make a decision, but he put the decision making on hold.

In exchange he made a different decision.

「Become the house head in my place. It's not even the time to ask the kingdom for permission anymore, so I'm making you the house head by my decision.」

「Ha? No, that's no good right!?」

「You're the one who is no good! By what kind of mistake you could end up getting into a fight with the kingdom hum!? Actually I want to yell at you for acting as you pleased, I even want to sock your face.」

Father showed his injured arm and said 「You are lucky I'm in this state」 before telling me the true reason he is handing the house head position to me.

「I can't make the decision. Besides, you will be able to manage this situation better than me somehow.」

「Father」

## Part 35

When I exited the room, I ran to Marie who came bringing food for father.

「The scolding is finished? From your look, it seems that you didn' t get punched.」

It seemed that Marie thought I would get scolded by father because of my action. Certainly it would only be natural for father to get enraged by what I had done.

「Father is injured so he can' t punch me.」

「Considering what you had done, it won' t be strange even if you get punched.」

I rescued Heltrude-san on my own and lent a hand to the dukedom.

Certainly I was acting too selfishly.

Marie looked worried for me.

「There is really no going back now. What are we going to do now? Are you planning to ask Luxion to manage this situation somehow?」

If I requested Luxion than ultimately everything will be resolved—or even if that's impossible, he will still manage somehow using brute force.

**But, a part of me don't want to go that far.**

「Using that guy' s power to go into a rampage is a bit, you know?」

「You' re saying that now after you have rampaged as you pleased in Arroganz?」

「It will be a massacre if Luxion get serious. I don' t want that.」

We are talking while walking through the corridor, then the topic moved to the people under the care of this house.

Starting from Claris-senpai and others, the people we saved from the principality are now also under the care of this house.

The reason is because we couldn' t hand them off to the capital, so our only choice was to bring them to here.

「What are we going to do with the people of Alzer? That person called Oliver is managing them right now, but how long are we going to shelter them here?」

「I want to hand them over but, there is a possibility I' m a wanted man right now.」

「You’ re definitely a wanted man now! That was why I objected! Man is really stupid, they kept shouldering needless things. My big brother also had a side like that in him.」

「Your big brother did? Didn’ t you say that he was quick to snap and underhanded?」

「—Sometimes he acted rashly. It was also a problem how he acted like it was no trouble at all for him. Something like that was troubling for the people around him.」

Marie talked of her memory about her big brother in the previous life. She looked nostalgic.

Her expression looked happy but lonely.

「That’ s why, you too shouldn’ t be reckless.」

「Then you don’ t need to worry. In the first place I don’ t have many options to choose from.」

「What do you mean?」

「—You remember that I talked with master before this?」

「You mean when I wasn’ t there?」

I told Marie everything about what I learned at that time.

「It seems the saintess is talking about recruiting me to enter her elite guards.」

「Haa!?!」

「The palace was in chaos because she started talking about recruiting me with a special treatment. After all his highness Julius and his friends have a grudge at me. They couldn’ t possibly allow a man like me to be at the side of the woman they love.」

「What the hell. Could it be things are getting strange because of their jealousy? This is the worst.」

It would be great if this is just a joke, but for his highness Julius and his friends I’ m becoming someone who should be killed.

I don’ t know how much authority Olivia-san held, but a large part of her influence came from her status as saintess—and as the lover of his highness Julius and others.

Marie is furious.

「She is taken over just as we thought! If it' s like this let' s ask Luxion to do something about the saintess.」

「I also considered that, but it' s too late already.」

「Why?」

That day, I heard from master—.

「—It seems that the influential nobles of the kingdom have given up on the palace. They are making preparation to rebel behind the scene. There will be civil war soon.」

Marie stopped walking. Her complexion turned white.

「No way」

I who walked several steps ahead of Marie also stopped walking and looked back with only my upper body.

「It' s true. Master told me. At this stage things can' t be solved with just a talk anymore.」

It seemed that master was taking action to avoid civil war if possible.

But if even that master have thrown in the towel, what will start after this is a civil war that doesn' t exist in the game scenario.

How long I' ll have to fight I wonder?

Even though I had spilled a lot of blood in the war against the dukedom, it seems that this country still doesn' t have enough of battle.

「It' s the worst huh. In the end we are also the same like Lelia.」

When we realized it the situation is heading toward the worst direction compared to that otome game' s scenario.

Perhaps it would be better if we didn' t do anything unnecessary and simply watched things unfolding quietly.

The result of us carelessly interfering invited a situation where there is no turning back.

Marie looked down and asked my plan from here with a dark expression.

「What are you going to do? You' re going to fight again?」



「—Maybe.」

「Why!? That' s just strange!」

Marie raised her head in disbelief at my answer. She began trying to persuade me.

「You will happily go to war just because your master told you to? You can just ask Luxion to solve everything! If it' s him then surely he will take care—**take care**」

Marie who doesn' t fully trust Luxion is hesitating to rely on him.

If it' s him then surely he will solve this matter with tough measure.

It' s scary because he might seriously blow up the capital.

「I' m doing this not because master told me. I decided it by myself.」

「Why!」

「Because I was the one who thoughtlessly got involved and neglected things.」

「Tsu!」

Marie also has an idea of what I meant, so she can' t say anything back.

Things wouldn' t become like this if we were more on the ball.

We considered everything with simple thought, as the result the country is almost getting destroyed just like with Lelia' s case.

「Marie, I' ll move seriously until this matter is resolved. I' ll also borrow Luxion' s strength and end the civil war.」

「By that, you means going against a country isn' t it?」

Considering my standing, I can' t stand at the kingdom' s side.

After all his highness Julius and others hate me.

After I nodded quietly, Ann who listened to our talk showed herself.

『I heard a nice talk.』

I jerked in surprise. Marie looked around while yelling angrily.

「Come out you eavesdropper!」

『I apologize for eavesdropping. But, if you two are going to fight Hohlfahrt and his gang, then I too shall lend you my help with my all. After all my objective is to destroy them all.』

My heart is thumping loudly in surprise.

Ann showed up by passing through the wall. Black smoke is wavering around her.

The humanoid black mist is approaching us.

No matter how I looked at her, she only looked like evil spirit or ghost, in fact she is the resentment of the saintess.

As I'm trying my best to not let my fear showed, Ann informed us of an emergency situation.

『More importantly head to your floating island quickly. Angelica is going to run wild at this rate.』

「Eh?」

『I told you right? That girl is similar with me. It's not just her personality. In the worst case that girl might be an existence who is as dangerous or even more than Olivia.』

## Part 36

Angelica was living in Leon's floating island.

The mentally unstable Angelica was living in a tower that was made from piled up stones.

There are iron bars attached on her window and a tough door that was locked from outside.

Originally Leon and others also didn't want to imprison her, but they had no other choice because of Angelica's strange state.

Gilbert who was worried about his little sister came to visit.

Behind Gilbert there was Cordelia who had the role of taking care of Angelica.

「Long time no see. Cordelia will stay with you from now.」

Cordelia bowed her head to the haggard looking Angelica, but she didn't show any reaction.

Cordelia pressed her hands on her mouth seeing that. She muttered 「What a state」 tearfully.

Gilbert sighed seeing Angelica's state.

「Accept the situation already.」

(His highness's betrayal must be very painful for her.)

Gilbert knew that Angelica loved Julius, but he never expected that it was to this degree.

He had to tell that Angelica the truth.

「You won't even reply? But, I'm going to talk about what's going to happen. Because originally I'll have you work as my liaison with Bartfalt House.」

In her current state Angelica didn't look like she would be able to fulfill her role.

But, Gilbert held an important talk with her in order to not let her do anything rash too.

「Redgrave House has rebelled against the royal family.」

Angelica lifted up her face.

Her face was haggard, but her eyes looked like they were shining eerily.

「The influential nobles are siding with us. Because the current royal family isn't worthy for their loyalty.」

The actions of Julius and others until now had been making the nobles to be dissatisfied.

Besides, the movement inside the palace was also suspicious.

If Redgrav House is going to stand up then I'll lend a hand—**there were a lot of nobles with that stance.**

「Angelica, Redgrave House shall take the throne. Because this country will fall apart if we don't do that. Can you understand what that means?」

He meant that they would dethrone the current royal family and sat on the throne themselves.

Not only the king and the queen, even Julius and other royal family members would all get executed.

Angelica stood up with a weak swaying.

「And his highness? What will happen to his highness?」

「You are still worried for his highness Julius even now? It seemed that when he heard of our rebellion, he vigorously proclaimed that he will personally subjugate us. It seems he is thinking that he can still win. Even though the military is also gradually coming to join us. —It's too bad for you but, give up already. His highness Julius—that man knew that you are here and yet he still dispatched a subjugation army to here. Do you know what was the command given to the subjugation army? It's to burn everything here. For him, your existence only worth that much.」

Gilbert was convinced of his victory because that was just how many allies that he had obtained.

And then he talked about how much Julius was making light of Angelica.

It was in order to make her to give up, but what he did was pouring oil to fire.

Angelica began to smile sinisterly hearing that story.

「Aha. Ahahaha! Is that so! I only worth that much for his highness! —This too is completely the fault of that woman who called herself a saintess and tricked him!!」

Flame appeared around Angelica. The flame was whirling.

Gilbert protected Cordelia who was standing behind him while creating a magic barrier in front of them.

「Angelica, stop!」

Angelica was laughing while crying. The ribbon tying her hair and other articles of clothing got burned.

Her beautiful long blonde hair wasn't burned even with the flame touching it.

What was burned was only Angelica's outfit.

No matter how much the flame touched Angelica, her skin didn't get burned.

「—I' ll burn everything. Yes, everything. I' ll incinerate that woman, and also everything that deceived his highness.」

It was suspect whether Angelica was in possession of her sanity. Gilbert and Cordelia were dumbfounded seeing that.

「Stop!」

「Angelica-sama, please stop it already!」

The two desperately kept calling in order to stop her, but Angelica pointed her left hand toward the two.

The flame assaulted the two. The two broke through the wall and got tossed outside.

They got somewhat burned, but they were safe.

Gilbert looked at the building from outside where flame was whirling high to the sky.

Angelica' s laughing voice could be heard from there.

「Everything should just turn into ash!」

Angelica' s sorrowful laugh resounded to the surrounding.

## Part 37

When Marie and others came to the floating island, a tornado of flame was dying the cloudy sky red.

A girl' s laughing voice was coming from inside the flame.

To Marie, that voice sounded extremely sad.

「How can even Angelica do something like this?」

This was outside the domain of magic that human could handle.

Ann appeared beside the dumbfounded Marie.

She didn' t stand out because everyone' s gaze was attracted to the gloomy flame tornado.

『That girl is descended from the same bloodline like me.』

「Haa!? That' s the first time I heard that!」

『You and Olivia are my descendants, but Angelica might be the descendant of my little sister.』

「I never heard that you had a little sister!」

『I didn' t tell you because you didn' t ask. In the first place, my little sister and me were sisters in name only and more like a stranger to each other. Perhaps, she became my replacement as the saintess after I left.』

It seemed that her relationship with sister wasn' t particularly good, although they also held no resentment to each other.

Marie was curious with Ann' s story, but it wasn' t time for that right now. Right now the priority was Angelica.

Marie felt the heat when she took a step forward.

The surrounding' s temperature was increasing even without the flame touching her directly.

「Hot! How can we save her like this huh?」

She wanted to save Angelica, but she couldn' t think of any idea to do it.

Ann offered her cooperation to Marie.

『I can meddle with her mind to make her stop.』

「You can do that?」

『If I can get closer. As expected I don' t want to rush into a flame that is created with magic.』

「It' s no good then!」

Just like what she did with Marie, Ann could meddle with Angelica' s mind and stopped her rampage.

But, for that she needed to break through the flame and touch Angelica.

Marie couldn' t do anything.

Marie and others could only watch, but there Leon appeared riding Arroganz.

「You can somehow manage if you get closer to Angelica-san right?」

Leon opened the chest hatch and peered out. Ann nodded to him.

『It' s possible if I can get close but, are you planning to rush into that flame?』

Leon lightly tapped Arroganz with his fist.

「Don' t look down on Arroganz' s heat resistance.」

Arroganz himself replied to the smiling Leon.

It seemed that he himself was confident.

『Arroganz can endure that flame. Luxion also said that.』

Luxion appeared in this place when his name was called.

His electronic voice was the same like usual. Marie couldn' t feel any motivation from him.

『There won' t be any problem. Even with just master' s pilot suit, he will be able to endure that flame for several minutes.』

Leon invited Ann into the cockpit.

「Come on, stand over here.」

Ann hesitatingly entered into Arroganz' s cockpit.

Usually Leon was scared toward Ann, but now he wasn' t showing any fear perhaps because of his uneasiness.

Next Leon turned his gaze to Luxion.

「What are you going to do?」

Are you coming into the cockpit too? Leon invited, but Luxion turned it down.

『I decline. I can give my support even from here.』

「—I see. Marie, take some more distance from here.」

「R-right」

Leon entered the cockpit and closed the hatch.

But, for some reason Marie was feeling uneasiness in her chest.

(Why is it? I got the feeling that I shouldn' t let him go.)

For some reason it felt like her heart was yelling that she couldn't allow Leon to go.

She clenched her hand, pressed her chest, and swallowed back her words.

In exchange she put out words of encouragement.

「Go save her without fail!」

When Arroganz's hatch closed, Leon's reply came from the speaker.

『Leave it to me!』

When Arroganz flew into the tornado of flame, Marie felt nothing but bad premonition.

Luxion who remained beside Marie expressed his inability to understand Leon's action.

『I'm baffled. Is there really any worth to go as far as that to save Angelica?』

For Luxion, Angelica's worth was only that much.

Furthermore, for Luxion even Hohlfahrt Kingdom and this situation were simply triviality.

Marie grasped her own chest and clenched her hand on her clothes.

「Of course there is. There will be a lot of problems if Angelica die.」

『—Everything will be resolved instantly if we blow away everything though?』

「Don't joke around at this kind of situation!」

『My apologies.』

After Luxion fell silent, Marie looked toward the flame that Leon flew into.

She knew that if it was Leon then he would return safely, but for some reason she thought that she had committed a mistake.

(Why is my chest feeling this painful?)

Leon's action of saving Angelica should be correct.

And yet Marie was feeling an indescribable anxiety.



It was as though a wrong choice had been chosen. Her chest tightened from a regret that had no going back.

(Marie Route 6 finished)