

Beatrice's everyone is bothersome I suppose! In fact!

Spoilers for volume 22 of the light novel ahead. Make sure to enjoy it after having read the main story.

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「Hmm~, this is a problem, in fact.....」

「Hmm~, you're right. What should we do about this?」

The two people standing together, arms crossed while tilting their head, racked their heads over the same problem.

One was a beautiful girl, with long grown silver hair and amethyst eyes. The other, a girl with cream-colored hair that was extravagantly rolled up, and eyes with an inlaid characteristic pattern.

These girls, whose names were Emilia and Beatrice respectively, were puzzling their heads like a pair of sisters. Although, their opinion over who was the older sister would probably differ between the two.

The place these two were in, was a blank room—— it could really only be called that, this strange place.

From floor to wall to roof, all of those were entirely lost in the pure white of this space. Messing up one's sense of perspective, whether this place was wide or tight, or even what was up and down or left and right, was vague.

If a single thing, was to be out of place in this space, it would be that——、

「There's a bunch, of those stone slabs, isn't there?」

Grumbling so, Emilia looked at the floating stone slab in front of her. There were, several of these floating in this white space, giving a strange sense of intimidation.

「Poke」

「Ah! Hey, Emilia! What are you doing, I suppose!」

On one of those stone slabs, Emilia casually placed her finger. Then, witnessing that, Beatrice widened her eyes, and then began to huff in anger.

She drew closer to Emilia, who was substantially taller than herself, and reproached her rashness.

However, it was too late.

「————」

From the stone slab Emilia had touched, shot out a white light, which completely covered their field of view.

Then, the next moment, the several stone slabs scattered about the white space disappeared, and only a single stone slab remained.

「Hmmm, seems like it didn't work」

「Don't give me that, in fact! Just, why do you have to be so reckless, I suppose! Seriously unbelievable, in fact!」

「I... I'm sorry I guess. But look, you can try it again as much as you want」

While apologizing to the red-faced angry Beatrice, Emilia lightly turned to the stone slab. Towards this now single stone slab, Emilia extended her hand and—— touched it.

『Touch the brightest of the Hero destroyed by Shaula.』

Instantly, that voice rang out, and a white light enveloped the space.

Then—— Once more, just like before, many stone slabs filled the space.

「Look, see?」

「Don't you "look" me, I suppose! I'm telling you to stop these careless actions, in fact!! 」

Raising her voice at the strangely proud-looking Emilia, who was looking over with one eye closed, Beatrice howled.

Within the seemingly endless white space, Beatrice's sermon resonated endlessly.

「Lookie here, onee-san, did you get scolded by Beatrice-chan again?」

Seeing Emilia who came trotting down the stairs, the braided girl at the bottom of the stairs, Meili, covered her mouth as she snickered.

「Ah, Meili.....Yeah, that's right. I'm suuuper reflecting on it.」

「It's natural that you'd do as much, I suppose. Geez, Emilia is definitely not thinking enough about just where we are right now, in fact. Huff huff, I suppose」

「Fufu, when I see you like thaat, you look just like a pair of sisteers」

Looking at the huffy Beatrice, and at a now-dispirited Emilia, Meili made that type of teasing remark. Hearing that, shouting 「What!」in surprise, both Emilia and Beatrice reacted in completely opposite ways. Emilia's eyes shone, while Beatrice made a displeased face.

「Betty, would be very troubled if she had such an laborious little sister.....」

「Whaat! In the first place, I'd be the older sister, and Beatrice would be the little sister right?」

「Cease the jests, I suppose. Even in actual age Betty is the older one, and the aura exuded by me is on an entirely different level from Emilia's, in fact. I could not be anything but the older sister, I suppose. 」

Looking at the proudly triumphant Beatrice, Emilia puffed up her cheeks in anger.

While visually Emilia looked like the elder, Beatrice's dignified presence was a step above her's. —but, as Meili saw it, she'd call both of them a pair of kid sisters who got along with each other. Which one of them was older, was just trivial.

「But, you're really rattled after aall. Is this also, because onii-san isn't around, I wonder.」

「——.hm. you're... right. Beatrice being so on edge, might also be because she's worried about how Subaru won't wake up.....」

「What Betty is angry at is how Emilia is being so careless, in fact. I may worry about Subaru, but I think separately about this problem from that, I suppose」

Warning Emilia, who had nonchalantly attempted to deflect from her own negligence, Beatrice sighed in lament. Within that small chest of her's, the seed of anxiety had certainly stingingly budded.

——Presently, Beatrice's group had entered the interior of Pleiades Watchtower.

Possessing the great achievement of conquering the Witchbeast Den of the Augria Sand Dunes that were said to be difficult to traverse by foot under their belt should certainly in itself be a thing to celebrate, however, right now, they were definitely not in a situation in which they could rejoice without reserve.

Right before arriving at the tower, at their final obstacle, their group had endured a heavy blow, and, as a result, they had been put into a position where they could have lost half of their personnel.

「It was thanks to her, that it thankfully did not come to that though.....」

Emilia placed her hand on her cheek, hearing that murmur from her, Beatrice scowled.

The subject that just entered the conversation, was the single individual in this tower who was not part of Beatrice's group, a woman who had been in the tower prior to them. Not talkative nor expressive, she was a person who had not answered a single one of their questions, in all honesty, while she made Beatrice's anxiety and irritability reach its peak——

「She did save Onii-san and the others, that naked ladyy. I understand Beatrice-chan's irritation, but it's true you know? 」

「I- I understand that, in fact. That's why, I didn't set anything up, I suppose」

Her anxious inner thoughts being guessed by Meili, Beatrice puckered her lips. After that, Beatrice took a deep breath, and set to change her mood.

「We're not gonna make any progress just staying here, in fact. I'll go see how Subaru is doing, I suppose.」

「Ah, then, I'll go too. I'm worried about Ram too. What about you Meili?」

With Beatrice suddenly standing up, Emilia also proposed going together. At Emilia's question, Meili tilted her head thinking as she said 「Weell」

「That strange mechanism, at the top of these stairs..... you still haven't solved it riight? Since it seems like there's no problem no matter how many times you touch it, is it fine if I just try it at random?」

「That's fine by me but.....will you be okay alone?」

「I'll be fiine. Besides, if we don't fulfill our objective in this tower then I can't go home anyways riight? I don't want want to stay in this sandy place either」

Waving her hand flappingly, Meili said so and headed up the stairs. Seeing that small back leaving, Emilia turned to Beatrice saying「Was it alright?」

「I'm suuuper glad that Meili is being cooperative, but.....」

「In that space, there are no contraptions which could hurt us.....That, was the conclusion from both Betty and Julius, in fact. So, there should not be any problems with that girl, I suppose」

「I see..... huh? So then, why did you get angry at me before?」

「knowing there's nothing, and doing something reckless despite not knowing whether there's anything are entirely different things, in fact! I take it then, that you have not reflected in the least, I suppose!」

「T- that's not true! Ah! C'mon, Let's hurry down! Subaru and Ram will get tired of waiting for us, hurry hurry 」

「Ah, hey, Emilia!」

Avoiding the topic in a frenzy, Emilia plucked up Beatrice and carried her, taking off. While shaking between Emilia's arms, Beatrice's cheeks puffed out.

「In the end, no matter how you look at it, Betty is the older sister, in fact」

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「Hm? Emilia-san and Beatrice-chan comin' down as well, I see.」

「Ah, Anastasia-san. And Julius too」

Down a long and big set of spiral stairs, Emilia still carrying Beatrice made her way. On the bottom floor, she noticed the figures of Anastasia waving at her and Julius.

Without stopping, 「Ei!」declared Emilia, jumping down the remaining set of spiral stairs.—Being wrapped in that forceful wind, she had taken a shortcut of nearly ten meters.

「Yosho」

「Siigh, quite the dangerous landin' there. I'd reckon that'd be way too scary for me to try」

「You're wasting your breath telling her that, I suppose..... Emilia doesn't have a single thing she fears, in fact」

「Hmph, that's not true. Even I, have some things I'm scared of. Like uuh, yeah. I'm thinking right now, wait a sec」

In order to recall the object of her own fear, Emilia began to hum in thought. Giving up on that pointless trial and error, Beatrice squeezed out of her arms, springing onto the ground of the bottom floor, and looked at the dragon carriage —that which their group had come riding in.

Inside the dragon carriage, Beatrice's contractor, Natsuki Subaru, was sleeping.

「.....Soon enough, it'll have been around a day, I suppose」

「——Are you worried about Subaru?」

Beatrice, as she gazed at the dragon carriage, had Julius' voice call out to her from the side. Turning to look at Julius, Beatrice, narrowing those blue eyes of hers、

「Julius, don't come too close, in fact. Betty already has a contractor, I suppose. That propensity of yours to seduce others, is awful, in fact」

「.....I apologize. Simply, this is the effect of my 『Divine Protection of Gathering Spirits』, it is something which is active without my own permissiveness. Please, I ask for this to not create a misunderstanding 」

「Sigh, it was just a little joke, I suppose. You're just taking it too seriously, in fact」

She sighed at the fact of her joke not getting through, but just now, Beatrice's side had been the more malicious one. Having that self-awareness, Beatrice did not say anything beyond that.

Subaru's group had become separated in the accident that had transpired in the Augria Sand Dunes. Despite the fact that, in terms of time, they had reunited in just a few hours, her anxiety was immeasurable.

At least, if they could have witnessed a reunion with him in good health, this anxiety could have been healed but——、

「Geez, what a tremendous sleepyhead you are, I suppose」

Beatrice whispered so, at her contractor which had not once opened his eyes within the dragon carriage, ever since their return.

Due to feeling her connection to Subaru, she understood that he was not in critical condition. However, there was the precedent of the 『Sleeping princess』.——Even though there were no issues physically speaking, they still wouldn't wake up, she couldn't view this optimistically.

「Thus, seems like Beatrice-chan's deep in her worries, how're ya, Emilia-san?」

「Me? Of course, I'm also worried about Subaru but..... But, from what I heard from Anastasia-san, he was working suuuper hard underground. Subaru is fine, I'm sure」

「What kinda faith is that?」

「What kind.....? Subaru's my knight, so isn't it obvious I'd believe in him?」

Confused, in that manner Emilia tilted her head, at which Anastasia gave a dry laugh. That understated trust, was also something Subaru struggled to no end to gain.

And so, as everyone present talked with one another——、

「——hk!」

Suddenly, from the dragon carriage in front of them, sounds could be heard. Beatrice and the others were surprised by that, and in the next moment——The doors of the dragon carriage opened, and out tumbled a figure from the inside.

It fell onto the floor of the bottom floor, and with a shocked expression its movements stopped.—— Ram.

「Ram! Thank goodness, you're awake!」

「E- Emilia-sama.....?」

Ram, who had tumbled out of the dragon carriage, looked at the approaching Emilia with trembling lips. While Ram had always given a strong impression of being firm and inexpressive, only in this moment did her perturbation peek out.

However, not long after making a surprised face, Ram、

「Emilia-sama, that you are safe is above all. However, is Rem together with you?」

「Yes, she's fine, you can relax. Rem's having a rest in a safe place right now」

「Is that, so.....」

Her body loosening in relief, Ram lightly relaxed her lips. Gently embracing Ram, Emilia softly pats her back.

Seeing that, Beatrice and the others felt peace of mind for the time being.

「It seems, there are no particular issues with Madame Ram」

「She was simply greatly exhausted in the first place, in fact. There shouldn't be any issues after waking up, I suppose」

「Ya say that, but Beatrice-chan's also got a relieved face, ain't cha?」

「.....Annoying, in fact」

Glaring at Anastasia holding back a chuckle, Beatrice shrugged her small shoulders.

With those relieved gazes directed at her, Ram stood up with a 「Well then」

「It would seem, we are in some odd circumstances. Would you allow me to hear in detail?」

「Of course. But, is your body alright?」

「Yes, it is fine. Since it would seem I slept for quite a long time.....」

「Yeah, that's right. Since Subaru was hugging you tightly.....」

「——Wait a moment」

At Emilia's innocent remark, Ram said that with cheeks stiffened. Emilia tilted her head saying「Eh?」at those words——、

「About, what transpired in the dragon carriage.....」

「Ah, yeah, it was such a surprise, you know? When you reunited with us having been separated, Subaru's arm was already tight around you.....Ram must have been considerably worried」

「——」

「Huh? Ram, what's wrong? That way's the dragon carriage.....」

With unsteady steps, Ram attempted to return to the dragon carriage. Then she drew her own wand from her breast pocket, and with a faint chant wind began wrapping around her. That was——、

「I shall erase Barusu, and it will be like nothing happened.....」

「Wait wait! That's dangerous, Ram! Calm down!」

「Please do not stop me, Emilia-sama. Ram must, wipe out this stain or else.....! 」

Emilia fretting at the attitude of the forceful Ram, grabbed her body and held her back by the shoulders. Ram, who despite that would not halt, caused Julius to fret and move to stop her as well.

Seeing all this, Beatrice put her hand on her forehead.

Then——、

「Everyone is bothersome, I suppose..... If you don't hurry and wake up, Subaru, it'll be trouble, in fact」

Thus, she whispered so, while feeling worn out from the absence of their main pillar.

《Continued》



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