

CHAPTER 4

The two sat in shock for a few minutes.

"W-what does this mean, I'm gonna be as strong as the mythic dragon?"

"Apparently. My magic has never been proven wrong."

"Has it been proven right?"

"Yes it has, my good friend Aoko was accepted into the royal knights partly due to my scan of her. And now she's one of their top warriors!"

"But how is this possible? I'm just an average guy! The only magic I can use is some mild reinforcement magic I use to go up hills easier and keep my balance while carrying heavy stuff."

"Hmm..." Ginko flew around him and looked him over.

"W-what?" Sora said in embarrassment.

"Take off your shirt."

Sora instantly went full blush.

"H-huh?!"

Ginko realized how her request sounded and ended up red as well.

"U-uh, th-that's not what I meant! I just wanted to see if my hunch was right, because you look pretty buff!"

"Oh... Sorry. That makes sense."

"No, I'm sorry for making it sound weird!"

The two shared an awkward laugh.

Sora then proceeded to remove his shirt.

He was quite robust, his muscles were quite developed. But he had a strange amount of scars all over his body.

"How'd you get all scuffed up like this?"

"Oh, well I do a lot of odd jobs for people, and I tend to get a bit reckless. Heh heh..."

Ginko thought to herself "(This looks like a lot more than just reckless behavior...)"

Ginko looked back up at him.

"How old did you say you were?"

"I'm 19."

Ginko's eyes widened.

"Really? That's how old I am!"

She realized he was still standing there with his shirt off and quickly regained her composure.

"Ahem, so let's get down to business."

Sora put his shirt back on.

"Will you accept training from me in order to rescue Princess Marissa?"

She extended a hand.

"Well..."

Sora grinned.

"...I've got no reason to decline. Any way I can help is fine with me!"

He took her hand and they shook.

"Great! I'll get started on the training regimen!"

Sora put his groceries away and began washing the dishes as Ginko wrote up a training regimen.

"...Aaaand, done!"

She rolled up the paper she was writing on and flew over to Sora to show him.

"Here, what do you think of this?"

Sora dried his hands and took the tiny piece of paper.

"Uh..."

"Yes?" Ginko said with excitement.

"I can barely read this."

Ginko got a shocked look on her face and started to tear up.

"I-I'm so sorry, I didn't know you never learned to read! How insensitive of me! Please forgive me!"

"Whoa whoa, hang on, I can read just fine."

"*sniff* Huh?"

"I only meant that this is way too small for me to read."

"O-oh, I guess I did write smaller than usual to fit everything on there. Sorry."

She quickly rewrote it larger so Sora could actually read it, and Sora finished up the dishes.

"Now," Sora began as he sat down at the small round table in the living room, which was where Ginko had been sleeping earlier, "After waking up, there's breakfast, 2 hours of muscle training, free time until lunch, 2 hours of magic training, 1 hour free time, 2 more hours of muscle training, dinner, 1 hour magic training and then free time until bedtime. And Wednesday and Saturday are off? Interesting..."

"What do you think?" Ginko asked uncertainly.

"I like it."

Ginko grew a big smile.

"Yayyyyyy! Then let's get started first thing tomorrow!"

"Yeah! Hey..."

"What is it?"

"It's getting late, do you like, have to report to the King or something since you found me?"

Ginko froze in place.

Turning her head stiffly, she muttered, "O-of course I do, I'd never forget something important like that..."

"Will you be able to find your way back alright?"

"Hmm... I kinda stumbled across your place by accident in the first place, so I really don't know where I am..."

Sora scratched his head.

"Aha! I know what we can do."

He rummaged through a pile of junk beside the table.

"Whatcha looking for?"

"This!"

He pulled out something that resembled a flashlight.

"People often give me random things for helping them out, so I've become a bit of a hoarder. This, if I remember correctly, is supposed to be a magic tool that emits light using the user's magic pool."

"Wow, I've heard of things like that, but we don't have a lot of magic tools in the castle."

"Anyway, I figure a little while after you leave, I can turn this thing on and shine it straight up, so you can find me again."

"You're pretty bright."

"Aw, thanks-wait, was that a pun?"

Ginko grinned.

The two of them shared another laugh before Ginko flew off to report to the King.

The King was pacing around his throne room wearing a hole in the expensive carpet that lined the floor.

"Where is that darned fairy? I should have sent someone with her, I shouldn't have expected anything to come from a lower class fairy like her, I should have gone with her, maybe we would have someone worthy by now, I should be training this person myself."

As he continued muttering random rantings, Ginko flew in the door.

"King Radius!"

He immediately snapped his head in her direction.

"Ginko! Tell me, have you gotten anybody?!"

He was panting rampantly as he asked her this.

"Yes, as a matter of fact, I have. He's a young man, about my age, with dark red hair. His name is Sora Ganji."

"I knew you could do it Ginko! So tell me, how strong can this man become?"

"Well..."

She scratched her head.

"Is there a problem?"

"It's not that. It's just...according to my scan, he has the potential to become as strong as the legendary dragon Nogard."

The King stood still.

"...Sir?"

A stream of tears flowed down his face.

"Ohhhhh, Ginko!"

He lunged out to give her a hug.

"Wah!"

"My little girl is saved! All thanks to you!"

As unnerving as it was, it was an honor to receive a hug from the King, so she put up with it.

"Now, make sure he gets enough sleep. We don't need a warrior if he's just going to collapse from sleep deprivation on the day of battle."

"Of course, sir. And I will report back once a week to give an update on his progress."

"Very good. You know, Ginko..."

"Hmm?"

"You seem very in control of this situation."

"I do? I hadn't noticed. I thought I was just fumbling around as usual."

"Hohoh, not at all. Now, go and train the savior of the kingdom!"

"Right!"

Ginko flew off to the fairies common room to gather a few necessities as the King waved goodbye.

"I sure was wrong about her..."

Ginko was flying at top speed in the direction she came from when a figure came up in front of her. She stepped on the brakes just in time to avoid hitting the figure.

It was Aoko, and she had another of the castle fairies with her, a small green haired fairy named Midoriko.

"Aoko? What is it? I have to get back to Sora's house."

"So, you found somebody already...I knew you had it in you."

She smiled. Then she pointed her thumb back at Midoriko.

"Midoriko here wanted you to have something."

The petite fairy slowly flew forward to Ginko. She was holding a book.

"U-um, I heard about what you were doing for the King, a-and I thought this might help you..."

She handed Ginko the book.

On the cover in olde Etirpsian was written:

"Encyclopaedia of Magic. Perfect your magic class."

Ginko was rusty in olde Etirpsian, so it took a minute to read.

"Wow, thanks Midoriko, this should help a ton!"

She gave Midoriko a hug and flew off.

"Bye, guys!"

Aoko waved her off with an air of respect.

"I knew that trick of hers would come in handy someday. Right Midoriko? ...?"

Midoriko was seemingly frozen in place after being hugged by Ginko. She was waving her off with a dazed look on her face.

It was tough going flying over the city at night, but Ginko quickly noticed the light shining from the catacombs and made a beeline for it.

Sora noticed immediately once Ginko came into sight.

"You made it! Everything alright?"

"Yeah, I even got something good from one of my friends. Check this out!"

She held the book up triumphantly.

"Wow! What does it say?"

"...Oh yeah, you probably wouldn't be able to read olde Etirpsian. Basically, it gives tips on how to improve various types of magic."

"That does sound useful. Does it have reinforcement magic?"

"Probably, pixie knights have been using various sorts of reinforcement magic since before Nogard was founded."

"Hmm..."

"What is it?"

"I know what fairies are, obviously. But I've only heard of pixies, how are they different from fairies?"

"Oh, that's easy. The girls are fairies, the boys are pixies."

"Huh, I always thought there were boy AND girl fairies."

"That used to be the case, and technically it still is, but the fairy Queen and the pixie King got into a feud a few decades ago and the two sides have been split ever since."

"So you never met any guys before coming to nogard?"

"Oh, no, it's not like that. The two sides aren't forbidden from interacting with each other or anything like that. It's just a political thing. Anyway, I'll probably be using this a lot for your training. so be prepared for a lot of olde Etirpsian wordings."

"I bet I can manage."

"Alright then, let's get some sleep so we can get started on that training!"

"Yeah!"

END OF CHAPTER 4