

## Chapter 1 (Part 1) - Betrayed Out of the Blue

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### 1

"Hmph... so that's Earth, huh?"

A large spaceship slowly cruised through the dark vacuum of space. In its captain's quarters, the walls served as a giant screen, displaying an image of Earth. A man gazed at the planet and muttered to himself while deftly operating a handheld device.

"Earth, the third planet in the Solar System. Formed around the same time as the solar system, approximately 4.6 billion years ago. Diameter: 12,756 kilometers. Seventy percent of the surface is covered in water. The atmosphere consists of 77% nitrogen and 21% oxygen. Lifeforms present: estimated at about 8.7 million species..."

The man cut off the mechanical voice coming from the device and murmured once more.

"They say environmental destruction is severe, but... that blue hue... doesn't seem that bad."

After a few more quick taps on his device, a bathtub emerged from the floor. The man was already completely naked. Though not overly muscular, his body was well-toned.

"Temperature: 38°C. Maintaining optimal heat."

A robotic voice filled the room again, and the man smiled contentedly. His handsome face, still retaining a hint of youth, exuded a bold confidence. As he ran a hand through his medium-length black hair, he slowly submerged himself in the bath. His appearance was almost indistinguishable from that of Earth's humans.

"Hmmm~♪"

He nodded, satisfied with the perfect bath temperature. The screen on the wall still displayed Earth, large and clear.

"Soaking in a bath while gazing at the planet that's about to become mine... there's nothing quite like it."

He continued to enjoy his bath while facing the image of Earth.

"But... is this planet really worth my personal attention? Even now, with me so close, there's no sign of anyone trying to communicate or even preparing to counterattack. Could it be... they haven't even set up a single functional surveillance satellite?"

The man chuckled in disbelief and shook his head.

"How fitting for a backwater planet populated by savages. What was my stepfather, the Emperor, thinking when he sent me here? Hmm..."

Suddenly, the man seemed to come to a realization and nodded.

"It must be a kind gesture. A chance to take a break and rest. How thoughtful..."

He leaned back in the tub and muttered while gazing at the ceiling.

"I'll conquer this planet swiftly, then enjoy the Emperor's kindness to the fullest!"

Just then, the sliding door opened, and several armed soldiers stormed in.

"What is it? If you have a report, use the comms. You know how much I hate having my bath time interrupted."

"..."

"What?!"

One of the soldiers raised his right hand, and without warning, they began firing. The man immediately leaped from the tub, taking cover behind it.

"Damn it! You...!"

Without hesitation, the man lifted the bathtub, which was twice his size, and hurled it at the soldiers.

"Whoa!"

"What kind of strength is that...?! He's not even wearing his suit!"

"Don't falter!"

The bathtub shattered, sending water splashing and steam rising everywhere. In the chaos, the man grabbed his black suit, which had been haphazardly tossed on his desk.

"Don't let him put on the suit! Shoot him!"

"Tch!"

The soldiers, regaining their composure, resumed firing. Clutching the suit, the man bolted from the room, still naked.

"After him! Don't let him escape!"

"What the hell is going on?! Huh?!"

As he dashed down the hallway in the nude, the man spotted his deputy, a creature with an octopus-like face, standing nearby.

"Amazza! There's a rebellion! Crush it immediately!"

"..."

Amazza, who seemed to be of a different species from the man, remained silent.

"Why aren't you responding?!"

"Lord Jinrai... Dressed in your jet-black power suit, you've single-handedly toppled countless space fortresses and defeated some of the galaxy's mightiest species... You're the top-tier villain whose name echoes across the stars, even at such a young age."

"What?! Flattery will only get you a raise, you know!"

"A raise...?"

Amazza gulped.

"Suppress the rebellion! Pointing a gun at me is the same as rebelling against the Emperor!"

"Unfortunately, I will be reporting to the Emperor differently."

"What?!"

"I'll report that 'Lord Jinrai was ambushed by savages on a backwater planet and died an honorable death.'"

"Wha—?!"

Jinrai's face was one of disbelief. At that moment, soldiers surrounded him from both sides of the hallway, guns at the ready. Amazza stepped back and ordered the soldiers.

"Fire..."

"Dammit!"

Jinrai slammed his hand against a dirty spot on the wall. A hidden panel slid open, and Jinrai dove into the opening. Amazza was shocked.

"What?! That... that's an emergency escape pod! I thought he was fleeing blindly, but he knew exactly where it was! Crafty bastard!"

The wall closed again. The soldiers fired at it, but inside the pod, Jinrai cursed as he gathered his thoughts.

(Tch! The whole ship is against me! I knew this mission to such a remote place was strange, but I didn't realize it was a setup from the start! Someone must have plotted this out of jealousy! But who...? No, it could be any number of people!)

The gunfire continued, nearly piercing the pod's walls. Jinrai activated the pod, separating it from the spaceship.

(If I can make it to the edge of the solar system, my ship should be waiting! I'll regroup and crush these traitors in one fell swoop! Just you wait!)

Jinrai glanced at the monitor but furrowed his brows in confusion.

"This thing is so old! I don't even know how to navigate it! Is it this button?!"

"..."

"Damn it, do something!"

"Response detected."

A robotic voice responded. Jinrai grinned.

"Voice recognition, huh? Fine! Set the course!"

"Detecting a strong energy signature. Proceeding at full speed to the coordinates..."

"Wha—?! Who told you to do that?! Whoa!"

The pod suddenly accelerated.

"Increasing speed... further."

"Where the hell are you taking me?!"

"Latitude 41°N, Longitude 140°E..."

"Where's that?!"

"Earth. Hakodate City, Hokkaido, Japan."

"What?! Earth?!"

In a short time, the pod landed—or rather, crash-landed—on Earth. Jinrai was thrown out by the impact.

"Ugh... Where am I?"

As he stood up and looked around, a naked woman appeared before him. She screamed.

"Kyahhh! Pervert!"

"Huh?!"

The woman slapped him hard across the face, and Jinrai passed out cold.

## Chapter 1 (Part 2) - The Elite Villain at the Dinner Table

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"..."

"Oh, you're awake."

"...?"

"Perfect timing! Dinner's ready. Why don't you join us?"

"..."

Jinrai, still cautious, slowly stood up and moved into the adjacent room. A kind-looking elderly man with a white beard, wearing a worn-out lab coat, sat at a round wooden table along with a bespectacled girl with long black hair. Jinrai noticed that he was no longer naked and tugged at the clothes he was wearing.

"Ah, those black clothes are an old tracksuit of mine. The underwear, at least, is brand new."

"Why did I have to go buy that...?" the girl muttered with dissatisfaction.

Jinrai examined the food on the table as he sat down.

(They've clothed me and even prepared food. The level of civilization here seems higher than I expected for a bunch of savages...)

"Well? Are you going to sit down?"

"..."

Jinrai plopped down between the two, his eyes fixed on the food.

"Alright, let's eat. Itadakimasu."

"Itadakimasu..."

The two began eating, and Jinrai narrowed his eyes.

(There doesn't seem to be any poison... But they haven't even restrained me... What are these people up to?)

Jinrai's stomach growled loudly. The old man chuckled.

"Hahaha! I guess some things are the same across all worlds, huh? Don't be shy—dig in."

"Hmph..."

Though imitating their actions, Jinrai skillfully picked up his chopsticks and began eating.

(If there were any poison, I'd be able to resist it thanks to the incident with the Jomirans. I need to refuel and think... Hmm?)

"This is pretty good..."

"Well, of course! I made it, after all," the girl proudly declared.

"Eat as much as you like. I have a lot to ask you afterward."

"Grandpa, are you sure we're not calling the police on this guy?"

"Why would we? He hasn't done anything wrong."

"He totally peeped on me in the bath!"

"That was an accident, wasn't it?"

"An accident or not, he still destroyed part of the house! All the more reason to call the police!"

Jinrai pondered as the two argued.

(They have a police force here... But why haven't they reported me? Do they plan to interrogate me privately? And yet, this food doesn't seem to contain any drugs or sedatives... How do they intend to handle me if I start causing trouble? More importantly...)

Jinrai stroked his chin.

(Why can I understand their language? I was trained in countless alien languages through sleep-learning, but I have no memory of learning Earth's tongue...)

"Anyway, let's just eat. Oh, you're already done? That was fast."

"...It was decent. You're quite skilled."

"Quit talking down to me, but... well, thanks."

The girl gave a slight nod in acknowledgment. After finishing his meal, the old man turned to Jinrai.

"So, may I ask you a few things?"

"Is this an interrogation?"

"No, no, nothing that serious. Just a little conversation."

"And I can exercise my right to remain silent?"

"Well, yes, if you really don't want to answer."

"I see..."

"First off, what's your name?"

"..."

"Silent already?!"

The girl's reaction was one of surprise. The old man scratched his head with a chuckle.

"Ah, I suppose it's only polite for me to introduce myself first. I'm Daijiro Hayate, a scientist."

"A scientist..."

"Not a very impressive one, though."

"I figured as much. Just look at those shabby clothes."

"Hey! Grandpa is a top-notch scientist!" the girl snapped, slamming her hands on the table. Daijiro tried to calm her down.

"Now, now... This is my granddaughter, Mai Hayate. She's in her second year of high school."

"Hmph..."

"W-What are you staring at?!"

Jinrai looked at Mai carefully and muttered.

"You're quite beautiful."

"Wha—?! F-Flattery won't get you anywhere with me!"

"I'm not flattering you. I'm simply stating the truth."

Without averting his gaze, Jinrai complimented Mai, his tone genuine. She had striking features, and her eyes conveyed a sense of determination, leaving a lasting impression on Jinrai.

"Haha, well, I agree with you there. I'm glad she didn't take after me or my son. I hear she's quite popular at school, too."

"G-Grandpa! This isn't the time to talk about that!"

"Well then, will you tell me your name now?"

Jinrai stood abruptly and declared in a loud voice.

"Dressed in the jet-black power suit that brought down countless space fortresses, the commander of the Doital Empire's 13th Fleet's Special Independent Unit—Jinrai, the 'top-tier villain,' is who I am!"

"..."

"..."

"Why is your reaction so... underwhelming?!"

"You're about my age, aren't you? It's time to drop that act. You should be thinking about your future by now."

"What?! You don't believe me?!"

"Sorry, but it's hard to take you seriously when you're standing there in a tracksuit."

"You're the ones who dressed me in this!"

"Now, now, calm down, Jinrai. I believe you. Why don't you sit back down?"

"Hmph, at least you're wiser than your granddaughter. As expected from someone older."

"Don't call me old!"

"But you are old!"

"Anyway, I took the liberty of analyzing that pod you came in on..."

"Analyzing? Can you do that?"

"To a certain extent. It's clear that you came from space just by looking at it."

"..."

"Why are you suddenly silent?"

"For instance... Could you repair it?"

"Repair it? Well, I'd need to run a more detailed analysis first."

"Do as you wish."

"Thanks! Ah, the chance to work with unknown technology... it's every scientist's dream!"

Daijiro's eyes lit up with excitement, and Jinrai chuckled.

(Scientists are the same everywhere in the universe... I'll make sure to make the most of this.)

"Well then, I'll be off to the lab!"

"H-Hey, Grandpa! What about this guy?!"

"Mai, listen closely..."

Daijiro whispered something to Mai.

"What?! You can't be serious!"

"It's just a theory, but yes. Anyway, I'll leave it to you."

"Ugh... fine."

"?"

"Um, Jinrai, was it?"

"You... You're going to call me by my first name?! The one whose name is known across the galaxy?!"

"Yeah, yeah, whatever. How about we take a walk after dinner?"

Mai and Jinrai stepped outside the house. Jinrai remained suspicious.

(They're letting me out... But what if I escape? What are they planning?)

"That pod or whatever it is? You'll be in trouble if it doesn't get fixed, right? So you're not going to run away."

"Wha—?! Y-You can read my mind?!"

"I can guess what you're thinking, that's all."

"Hmph..."

"I'd honestly prefer it if you did run away. I'm tired of all this trouble."

With a sigh, Mai sat on a strange box in the yard.

"Trouble?"

"There's always something going on..."

Jinrai glanced at the house again and noticed a large sign.

"'NSP Research Institute'? This place doesn't look like much of a research facility."

"We don't have the money to build something new. So, this house is both our home and the lab."

Jinrai scoffed at her answer.

"Hmph, so your research must not be that impressive, then."

"That's not true!"

Mai stood up, shouting. Jinrai flinched.

"W-What is it now?"

"My grandpa's research is crucial to the future of this planet!"

"Doesn't seem like it, though..."

Suddenly, a loud explosion echoed through the air. Jinrai immediately sensed something and turned toward the noise. A group of people clad in brightly colored, rainbow-striped tights stormed into the yard.

"They're here!"

"Who are they?!"

"They're members of 'Repolu,' a secret evil organization hellbent on world domination! They're always coming to trash our yard, targeting NSP! It's practically a daily occurrence!"

"Daily?! You get secret evil organizations showing up at your doorstep on a regular basis?!"

Jinrai was stunned.