



THE FIRST STORY
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TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K – PROJECT WORLD

PROLOGUE:

SIDE: THE BOY

Even if I were to leave today, surely no one would care.

Sometimes I think about it.

I am not regretting it at all. Given the stress, discomfort, and concern for others, I don't think I'm particularly strong, so it's easier to live alone without worrying about anyone.

Since I am an orphan, I have no important memories so I could just let them go. Everyone says "I'm sorry", they always have something to do, you need some power to get along.

Above all, in my case, I am not good at communicating with people, I need more power, the total amount of energy is also very low.

So, after graduating from high school, I chose a way of life that does not use power, regardless of people as much as possible.

After living quietly in a room in an apartment with no neighbors, part-time work was changing, cleaning work, night traffic control and factory work, things you can do only in silence.

If you live calmly as a plant, you don't have to do much, there is nothing good or bad. So I'm satisfied, but sometimes I wonder what would happen if it disappeared.

If I were absent from work, I would be contacted for that part-time job, but if they got no response, they would surely give up.

If I fell behind in renting the apartment, I would receive a reminder, but if they find out that I no longer exist, they can terminate the contract without looking for me.

I still have no friends at school or on the premises.

When I will leave, I suddenly think that my existence will melt and disappear, without anyone's concern.

Somewhere in my mind, I want solidarity with people, although the connection with people bothers me.

There's recently one thing I'm addicted to, it's a certain SNS game that I install.

It is an experience based game, in which the mission is emitted through an in-app bulletin board and is executed in real life, and thus you get points.

Missions can be shared between players, or they can be issued by someone who appears to be operating.

Participating in a mission makes you feel that you have fulfilled the request of someone you do not know, even indirectly, and when you join a large-scale mission, you work with someone else in the city to do something. Makes me feel scarlet with a weak person.

The missions are broadcast in many places in Tokyo, and to participate in the missions, many people often appear in the center of Tokyo in vacation.

Even today, he is walking in the night city of Shizume-cho, holding his stomach.

He was not used to crowds in the city, and he crossed the intersection, writhing so as not to hit people. The mission in which he participates is very simple. Just go to the designated place.

The mission was not an invitation on the bulletin board, but was issued to an individual. For missions that do not require a number of players, a mission can be issued by randomly selecting a player. In such cases, you generally get more points than open recruitment missions.

The destination that shone on the map on the screen was almost over. His steps were lighter.

Some of the things that attracted me to this game were the weak words towards humans and the slightest stimuli that fall into everyday life like plants, but the most fascinating part was the "magic" hidden in the game.

Complete various missions and collect points to rank up in the game. And if you rank above a certain level... you will gain the power of "magic" that can be used in the real world.

What idiot, he laughed when he first saw this rumor on the bulletin board. But sometimes, he saw it. The way those in the first rank act, they don't really appear to be ordinary humans and avoid strange powers.

Knowing that there is an unknown world in this world, I felt comfortable changing the color of the world.

I felt that the game was suspicious and that the mission system could easily be used for crimes, but once I saw the world I didn't know and was fascinated by it, I wanted to go further.

The mission's designated location was an alley in Shizume-cho. When the destination signs on the app map and your current location mark overlap, the in-game pet parrot character appears and gives the message: "Mission Complete! One Hundred Jungle Points Added!"

One hundred points is a big thing for me, I'm still in a lower range. This is an exceptional point for a mission that is only to reach the designated place. Perhaps it was a service mission to promote the habit of participating in missions. I smiled when I thought I was going to rank up soon.

At that moment, something appeared from behind.

"Hey."

Had finished. I was wondering if he was the mission issuer. What if it's a dating mission? If you post in the hope that a pretty girl will come, a person like me may be irritated. ...No, the mission emitter was the one that seems to be running. If not related to the game...

They look at each other while thinking of various things in an instant.

And strengthened his entire body.

There was a fox-faced person.

A fox face that appears to be laughing softly, enjoying the red light of sunset from behind and floating in the backlight.

It was creepy and all the hair on my body was screaming.

"What... what...?"

My voice was shaking.

The man in the fox mask shook his shoulders. He laughed.

"Do not be afraid."

He said it out loud in a cat voice, slowly taking off his fox mask.

The eyes that came out from under the mask met his eyes.

Gently.

I felt as if that had devoured the inside of my head, the world had darkened.