



**PROJECT SCARD: “TWIN WINGS OF THE MOON SHADOW”**

**TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD**

### **CHAPTER 3: "TRIVIA" AT NIGHT**

Looking back at the past is pointless. Because no matter what you do, the past doesn't change.

However, when he hears the name "Trivia", the burned memory revives.

Seven years ago. Washimine Ran was still in his teens.

Ran, Jin and Mikage Ikuya met at "Tamabbit Garden", an orphanage funded by "Artemis Finance", and grew up there.

Anyway, he was tired. Even when he's busy with work, he's not as bad as seven years ago.

There was a martial arts room in a corner of "Tamabbit Garden". The name of the martial arts room seemed dated, but it was a comfortable training room even at that time because the facility was frequently renovated because it was backed by "Artemis Finance".

However, the training imposed on them was terribly hard.

"Can't you even touch it properly?"

The predecessor "Fresweg" said that, with a severe beard.

He was crouched on the floor of the martial arts room.

The smell of blood mingled with his breath. His body, which had accumulated fatigue and damage, was not moving properly on his fingertips.

The only thing he could do was curse the hostile beard that was ruthlessly bringing him down in the fight training he had just done.

The predecessor Ossan just looked at him, and after that he looked like he wasn't interested.

That kind of place was irritating now and in the past.

"I have no strength at all. You are too strong."

It was Jin who sat on the ground and said that.

"Ah. I can't move anymore."

They had wasted time. He was sweating and out of breath, but that boy could still move.

From the side, he knew he was killing the pain well when they interacted with each other.

"I can still do it...!"

Ikuya squeezed out a weak voice.

He was well equipped, but he couldn't even stand properly.

But the sun was not dead. He looking directly at the predecessor, trying to step forward as he staggered.

"The fighting spirit is not bad. But discover the limits."

The predecessor lightly pressed Ikuya's shoulder, who collapsed without a voice.

In training, he was in front of Ran and hit harder than him. It was not surprising.

The predecessor "Fresweg" looked around.

"Jin was out of control."

Jin replied "Yes.", with a bitter smile.

"It's painful. The combat training that only you, the three candidates for the two wings, are doing is really tough."

After decades of racing, they, who were not Scards, continued to challenge the battle against the predecessor that had crept through countless shrines. Furthermore, Ossan used the power of tattoos mercilessly.

After doing sober and painful basic training to the limit, he was firmly resolved.

"So, think again about the meaning of doing this training."

The predecessor looked up at the bright moon outside the window. He even he could remember that full moon.

"The predecessor of 'Artemis Finance' already existed when Kanto became the center of the country. It was an organization created for those afflicted by politicians."

"Yes. So even now that it has grown into a large company, "Artemis Finance" is based in this city and focuses on the business of this city. If there is excessive government interference, it will be rejected."

Jin was good at it for some reason.

"Yes. The power to do that is held by the 'Artemis' Scard. The Moon Goddess tattoo has the absolute power to not allow any intervention of power."

Successive Artemis have protected this city and its organization.

"But the price is high."

It may have been that time. The first time he felt a shadow in the voice of his predecessor, who was always confident.

"The "Artemis" tattoo kills her Scard in exchange for great power. The goddess-influenced body is weakened and distraught on new moon nights and when the moon is not rising."

The predecessor was silent as he tried to continue his words.

He knew what he couldn't say.

The price of "Artemis" is too high for humans. The Scard of "Artemis", which runs out every day due to the change of moon, loses its life and all die when they are young.

"That is why we need someone to serve 'Artemis'. To protect her limited life as much as possible, we need someone to help the goddess. That is the difference you are looking for."

He should have understood it in his head.

"The Scard of "Artemis" will serve as CEO of "Artemis Finance", and the Twin Wings will be the CEOs. It is not the simple reason why an organization called "Artemis" and a company called "Artemis Finance" are connected. I have no choice but to connect."

For the first time, he took the fate of "Artemis", which he understood only as a word, in the voice of the predecessor that killed his emotions.

Therefore, the interaction with the predecessor that night was memorable.

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Immediately after he finished combat training for the Twin Wings candidate, the predecessor replied that he had something to do. He should have been busy during the day, but that man was too tough.

When he looked up at the sky in the courtyard of "Tamabbit Garden", the moon was rising very high.

At that time, they went to a school in a special area of "Tamabbit Garden", and after returning, received a wide variety of lectures and exercises as executive candidates for Twin Wings of "Artemis Finance". Often carried out not only knowledge, but also training on the job with creating connections in the future.

It was only after all the battle training conducted directly with the predecessor, was done.

Like in his early teenage years, he was living a rough day now.

The courtyard of "Tamabbit Garden" was a square, a place where the children of the installation played during the day.

He was sitting on the bench there, cooling his body that was lit up from training.

By his side, Jin was watching an anime using his phone.

"How loud. Wear headphones. Go back to your room and look at it there."

"But... oh! So we look at it together?"

"Let's look at it. Looks like something good has occurred to you."

It was Ikuya who was standing. After training, he was eating the muffins they were given as a midnight snack.

"Don't go along with it, it's annoying."

"I'm a leader, so I don't care about that. Still, Ran is good at cooking."

He happily devoured the muffins.

"I did it because you're always loud when you're hungry."

"You asked permission to use the kitchen and ingredients in the hours after training to do that."

"Also, I'm thinking of eating tonight, but I'm trying various things to keep the calories down, even though it's sweet."

"Ran is smart about details!"

Ikuya waved his left hand. He had a bandage on his wrist.

"I also noticed that it hurts here."

"Ikuya. You are always too excited. If you get injured, your training will be interrupted."

Ikuya laughed again.

"That's correct. Ran has strict language that is easily misunderstood. I'm losing. I think that if you soften the words you use a little more or increase the explanation of a word, it will be understood more."

"Pat yourself on the mouth and shut up."

"Because I am a leader. By observing correctly, I am the one who knows Ran and Jin best."

"I often say that you can do your best."

They were selected as candidates for Twin Wings among children of the same age in "Tamabbit Garden". Among them, Mikage Ikuya was by far the best.

"I haven't beaten you in classroom training or combat training."

"I can't beat Jin well. It's a good match."

"Jin's path is awkward."



"Ran has a high win rate against Jin's."

"That's just Jin launching the game."

"Huh? What are you talking about?"

The person in question was watching anime and had not heard the story at all.

"Jin fights without showing his opponent's strengths. From a leader's point of view, that's encouraging."

"I'm done training, isn't that a good story anymore? Oh, yeah, Ran. This anime is good too."

"I said I won't look at it."

He pushed the phone towards Jin.

"Oh! That's the one with the raccoon dogs!"

"Yes. The one that comes out of the raccoon dog. Do you know it, Ikuya?"

Ikuya sat up and they started looking at him together.

Ran considered it ridiculous and stood up.

"Ran.", Jin yelled.

"I'm not getting along at all, but it's good that Ran doesn't deny me what I want to do. I also think Ran has a bad mouth."

"You were listening to the story from before, right?"

Jin has been such a guy ever since. Is he a troublesome guy since he was born?

"It's a test."

Ikuya said suddenly.

"There is a word for hard work, what do you mean by 'Kiriiso' or 'Takuma'?"

Face to face with Jin.

"Cut the cut. Satsuma sharpens. Hit the ball and the spear. It means processing bones, ivory, and gems."

"It's an analogy to working hard on morals and scholarship, and it leads to cheering each other on and refining various things."

"Is it really the case?"

Ikuya made a face of being deeply impressed.

"Don't you know it as a quiz?"

"I knew a little. But, the cuts and the foundations, I didn't know about that. Amazing, Ran and Jin. They're studying!"

He sometimes said that kind of sloppy thing.

"Summing up the current history as a leader. We are like precious stones."

"It is not like this?"

"I feel like I can't say something nice."

"It's tough! But even if you refrain from doing it, it goes on and on!"

Ikuya showed his white teeth. Ran had never seen anyone more positive and bright like him.

So he somehow he was convinced that he was the leader and he thought that he could follow him if he did something.

"The next Twin Wings will be decided soon, but I will not regret anyone."

There were two Twin Wings, but three candidates. Obviously someone would leave.

He knew it from the beginning.

"I don't care who the Twin Wings turn out. Ikuya will be chosen."

That was a real word to him at the time.

There was no doubt that Ikuya was the best in terms of skill. Both Ran and Jin admitted it.

He didn't say it, but he thought it would be Jin if he chose someone else.

Jin is unscrupulous, but he turns his head. He is the best at flexible turns and is definitely an important quality for the Twin Wings.

The next Twin Wings that would come out would surely be Ikuya and Jin. Above all, Ran did not have a strong will to become a Twin Wing.

Despite being a candidate for Twin Wings, at the same time, he was a boy who dreamed of opening a western restaurant, and he always witnessed Ikuya's determination to call himself a leader.

Ran was not like that. He was not interested in such a thing.

"Ran. Are you in a bad mood?"

Jin said, putting his phone in his pocket.

"No."

However, he couldn't deny it.

Jin was good at closely observing others.

When Jin asked him, he noticed the feelings in his heart.

Ikuya, who always spoke well, was waiting without saying anything.

"Damn."

It wasn't like talking to others, but he couldn't help but open his mouth.

"The human who inherits the guardian of the Twin Wings, 'Artemis', is like a waste of life to God."

"She is a pretty person, but when I saw her earlier, she was very thin."

Around that time, "Artemis" was the predecessor of Azusa.

As Jin said, her predecessor "Artemis", who was still in her twenties, was exhausted from the tattoo and cast a shadow of impending death.

"Does it make sense to have Twin Wings?"

He knew it was a question he had had for a long time.

"Even with Twin Wings like Ossan, 'Artemis' cannot escape fate. Does it make sense to us?"

What is the meaning of the destiny determined in the life of the dragon?

"Tamabbit Garden" took care of him as an orphan and he was nominated as a candidate for Twin Wings because he had a background. They have kept him in a dragon without deciding anything.

After saying that, he realized that it was the feeling that he had been harboring and he regretted it.

He thought it was stupid to say that, since he had been told that he was a candidate for Twin Wings.

"For my part, I think the Twin Wings position makes sense to us. Twin Wings will be the managing director of 'Artemis Finance', so there are many benefits."

"I think it's the role of Twin Wings to support 'Artemis' if she's destined to do that. It's not about whether it makes sense, but what it means to us to be Twin Wings."

Ran was in trouble, Jin spoke weird like Jin, and Ikuya responded seriously like Ikuya.

Ran felt stupid and clicked his tongue.



"Jin is too selfish. Ikuya has a lot of idealism. Not a helpful answer."

"Wow. How terrible."

"Theory is important! It's the ideal!"

A bitter smile accidentally leaked out.

It was a useless answer for Ran, but he understood that there was a way of thinking that he did not have.

Ran was surprised.

"It's an interesting story. Will they include me?"

Another voice came out suddenly in the courtyard lit by the full moon.

Jin didn't seem to be surprised, so it seems like he had already noticed. Ikuya had fallen off the bank on a detour.

A silver-haired woman was standing in the soft moonlight. The age was a bit older than them at the time. She looked at them with a sweet expression that resembled that light.

"Oh, the next 'Artemis'!"

"Ah, Jin! Don't point your finger! It's rude."

Jin, who was calm until then, blinked. It was a rare scolding for Ikuya.

It was Azusa who was there before she inherited "Artemis" at that time.

They only knew the appearance from the image that the previous Twin Wings showed them.

"Oh, I'm the next Artemis."

Azusa said without hesitation, walking towards them in the moonlight.

Even if he thought about the sudden appearance and gesture, it was the same as the Azusa now.

"It is certainly fate to be selected as 'Artemis'. Unless someone inherits 'Artemis', which we humans cannot understand, the sealed God will randomly choose the next host. Whether or not she is suitable as Scard."

If the Scard dies without a succession ritual "Artemis" disappears once, but a few months later, someone will get a tattoo around the special area.

A tattoo that has not been inherited correctly causes great confusion and kills an unsuitable host.

If a Scard dies without inheriting an ordinary tattoo, many will disappear, making "Artemis" different from the others.

"I know it as a broken record. A lot of people were euthanized until the next 'Artemis' was decided."

"That's why the 'Artemis' organization carefully chooses the right candidates beforehand, like me."

"Maintenance expenses..."

She had accidentally said it.

"That's correct, but..."

Azusa narrowed her eyes.

"Even if destiny is chosen for me, if I am alive, I will decide how to use that power. The same is true for the current generation of 'Artemis'. To obtain the best power for the city I love. It is a wish. There is a destiny in the world. that nothing has yet been decided on the definite path of destiny."

Her words were direct. Needless to say, it was not a lie.

The way beyond destiny, out of there.

"But..." Azusa lowered her eyebrows and gently turned her face down.

"I look like this and it's delicate so I can feel lonely."

The eyes that were looking at him weren't trustworthy, unlike before, and they even looked younger than theirs.

"Not only 'Artemis', but also the Twin Wings will be replaced soon. So what kind of people are my wings? I came to see him."

"Well that's..." Azusa looked shy.

"It doesn't matter what kind of feelings you have. I want you to help me."

Azusa shifted her gaze from him.

"Washimine Ran."

"Karasue Jin."

"Mikage Ikuya."

One by one, they said their names.

"I'll be happy to be the leader on Azusa-san's side.", Ikuya replied.

"They are Twin Wings, so it depends on two people.", Jin replied.

Ran still couldn't answer at the time.

Azusa was looking at him.

The time to wait for the words was only a few seconds, but he felt it was a long time.

He still hadn't organized it. But he was trying to say the words that tried to take some form.

There was a voice blocking it. It was the voice of the bearded man that he heard earlier.

The predecessor "Fresweg" was looking for Azusa. Was that an errand?

"Oh, that's bad. Actually, I came on my own. I was going to go back and make a weird face at the meeting place before they noticed me."

Azusa turned around and said that with a girlish face mischievously.

"See you later."

In the blink of an eye, the figure disappeared beyond the moonlight.

It seemed that she was immediately caught, and he heard the voice of his predecessor, scolding her.

Anyway, that was the night Ran met the goddess.

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And the reunion was a night in which the sky burned.

It was some time after they met Azusa that the "Akatsuki Conflict" occurred in the special zone.

Enduring the relentless training of the predecessors, it was a time before the selection of Twin Wings' successors.

"Artemis" fought a fierce battle with "Trivia" who had invaded the special zone taking advantage of the "Akatsuki Conflict".

Until a while ago, they sometimes accompanied the Twin Wings in battle as practical training, but at that time it also stopped. It meant that there was no place for the predecessor to fight while he protected them.

Still, the situation in the city was heard. In fact, he witnessed a confrontation between the operatives of external criminal organizations such as "Trivia" and companies, and the guardian of the city Arashiba Eiji.

The damage and sacrifice caused by the collision.

It happened in front of Ran, in a place he knew.

"Tamabbit Garden is on fire..."

Even Jin was surprised.

He had no choice but to stare up at the red night sky as if was bleeding.

"Trivia" suddenly attacked "Tamabbit Garden".

The flame-lit ice sheet shattered and a huge newborn ice block stood out in the red sky.

A great raven made from Guren's fire danced in the night.

The predecessor Twin Wings had come to light.

Whether it was on-the-job training or on-the-job missions, the two were angry and calm, even when it came to a criminal Scard, revealing their emotions.

Several Scards were involved in the attack. They couldn't get rid of them easily even with all the power of the predecessors.

"Double sheet of "Trivia"."

The man with the two swords who looked past the black smoke and the man who carried the long spear were Hecate's guardians.

The appearance of fighting evenly in front of the Twin Wings was like a demon.

The twin wings and swords disappeared into the darkness as they scattered sparks.

The loud roar finally brought him back to himself.

"Where is Ikuya? Hasn't he returned yet?"

Usually, there was no one who did not speak loudly at those times.

When the attack happened, he yelled instructions at the leader as usual. Ensure a safe course and move so you don't get caught up in a Twin Wings battle. Evacuate children and staff from "Tamabbit Garden".

They moved because of it.

In fact, the humans in "Tamabbit Garden" who were late to escape were there, children and staff.

However, only Ikuya was missing who went to the children's bedroom to guide the evacuation.

The bedroom was on fire. He could hear the explosion from there. It was quite possible that the fuels had caught fire.

"Damn it! Stupid!"

"Wait."

He grabbed him by the arm.

Reflectively dissipating and looking back, there is Jin. He didn't have the usual wavy smile on his face.

"If you go, you will be involved in the battle."

"Avoid it and move."

"That is not the case."

He knew it. The Twin Wings battle that fully unlocked the skill as a Scard involved a wide area that was centered on the bedroom.

But...

"I cannot let you go."

The voice was heard from above.

"Azusa-san!"

The moon goddess was on the ceiling, staring at the burning bedroom and the falling ice flames.

The hot wind was blowing her silver hair

"Why are you here?"

"Jin Karasue. It is a meaningless question to you. Do I have to say that I have come to help my wings?"

Azusa looked at them and said that, then looked towards the battlefield.

"Now, it's too dangerous to approach the Twin Wings. And..."

Ran was trembling. Only moments later he realized that the emotions surging within his body were horrible.

From the sky where the flames swayed, a piece of darkness fell in the shape of a sword. Thousands of bolts of darkness attacked with numbers and momentum similar to heavy rain.

It was an impossible sight.

It was at that moment that he realized that what shook his body was the original fear of the human being, the night and the dark.

Neither Ran, nor Jin, nor the humans in "Tamabbit Garden" had a way to escape death.

"Do not give up."

The shaking ceased in a sympathetic voice and death never came.

The golden glow suppressed, repelled, and crushed the falling dark blade.

"The light of the moon..."

Jin knew the true identity of what protected them.

The light was the same as the moonlight peeking through the holes in the black smoke.

The "Artemis" tattoo manipulates the moonlight. The moonlight can be freely changed to any shape and hardness.

It was the shield of the moonlight that protected them from the pouring darkness.

For the first time, he realized what the power of "Artemis" really was, which distinguishes it from other tattoos.

"This darkness is Hecate's attack."

Azusa took off from the sky.

"Ran, Jin. Can I have a little time?"

At that time, Azusa inherited the tattoo as a new "Artemis". The predecessor of "Artemis" died shortly after the inheritance.

The surrounding darkness violated and raised the sickle like a snake.

The burning bedroom began to rattle and crumble.

"I promise to finish it soon. So stay here."

"But nevertheless...!"

Ikuya was still in the bedroom crumbled in that flame.

When Ran was about to leave, Jin grabbed his arm tighter than before and stopped him.

If they went near Azusa, there was no life for them who weren't Scards in the face of that darkness. Azusa was attacking the darkness as she protected them and the children they were evacuating.

Without saying anything, he knew what she meant and understood that it was correct.

(I won't move.), he thought.

"Ikuya. I call you leader. Survive."



And the goddess of the moon exerted a compensatory power.

"Artemis" won the battle that night.

Azusa was settled in just a few minutes, as she promised. The predecessor Twin Wings also repulsed their enemies, and "Trivia" lost a lot and withdrew.

However, the predecessor Twin Wings hastened the succession due to injuries from that battle.

Ikuya did not return from the flames.

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"Ran. Come on, Ran-Ran?"

"Who is Ran-Ran?"

"It's a ramen shop or panda. Also, a Chinese heroine."

"Who knows."

He was upset to remember the old days until Jin called him.

It was not an office at work. He couldn't tell subordinates about it and it was a waste of time.

It was the hour of the afternoon and the work was almost finished.

"What is it for?"

"It's for you. We just want to ask if it's a new kind of drink comparison."

He had coffee in his right hand and an energy drink in his left hand.

It was noticeable by the chemical smell in the mouth, the traces of carbonic acid, the bitterness and the aroma that he drank alternately. It was unpleasant.

Jin was smiling. He was annoying.

"Ran. You remember that night, right?"

"You are speaking affectionately at work."

"Should I say the night of the 'Trivia' attack?"

It was a joke, but Jin looked bitter.

"Jin. It is said that they won't shoot you if you don't make noise, but do you know the origin of that?"

"There are various theories. Except for the story that the capture cry was fired in a pure frame, the story of the human pillar is famous. The daughter whose father became a human pillar because of the Temari song she sang. A man who became a column by his own words. It is a story that eliminates the so-called language."

"Correct answer. In your case, it's the one who flies off at the cry of difficulty."

He was approaching helplessly to his face, so he tapped him forehead with his finger.

"Ouch! Is something wrong?"

"Huh? Stop doing that."

"Ah..."

Jin kept talking, no matter what Ran said.

"We will definitely collide with 'Trivia'. It is clear that they were indirectly trying to move the criminal organization to take away our power and take risks."

The information department was researching trends in recent months. The information obtained from Arashiba Eiji also confirmed the connection between the criminal organization that moved and "Trivia", they erased the traces of participation as much as they could, but they moved too conspicuous.

"We 'Artemis' collide with 'Trivia'. It's like fate. I think we'll do well for hundreds of years."

"The origins of "Artemis" and "Trivia" are the same. Born here to protect the vulnerable who were oppressed by politicians. There was a time when we fought together."

"The fatal difference is that our goddess "Artemis" seeks the host's life for herself, while "Hecate", who leads "Trivia", indiscriminately seeks praise. Kill dozens of humans at the cost of that power. You cannot avoid losing your life without killing. Then inevitably the organization "Trivia" fell into obscurity."

"Repeat murders, kidnappings and trafficking to calm 'Hecate'. No matter what the excuse is, they are criminal organizations."

"But for 'Trivia', this city is home too."

The two organizations that coexisted with the enemy of power finally clashed, and "Artemis" expelled "Trivia" from the city. After that, in the course of repeated collisions, there was of course a past in which "Artemis" was injured.

Both of them, who should have been born with the same purpose, continued to shed blood on each other.





"It's the usual pattern. "Hecate" continues to eat and then falls asleep. Meanwhile, "Trivia" suppresses the activity. But when "Hecate" is hungry and wakes up, she seeks praise and moves to reconquer the city."

"Trivia" expands its power immediately with murder during "Hecate's" active period. It makes sense to increase the power of the organization while controlling the price of "Hecate" by killing hostile forces.

That's what Ran and Jin knew directly when "Tamabbit Garden" was attacked that night in the "Akatsuki Conflict".

In the time since, the behavior of "Trivia" shows that "Hecate" is now awake again.

"It's a job for the Twin Wings to stop them."

"We have the information department moving based on your movements four years ago."

"The tail of 'Trivia' can be grasped immediately. We will defeat his Scard as Twin Wings."

Killing the enemy, the "Double Sword of Trivia", who fought with the previous Twin Wings and had been deeply wounded.

They were contacted by phone.

It was a summons from Azusa to the Twin Wings.

Ran was doing his work while he spoke.

The night sky was outside the window before they knew it. Jin and Ran stood up.

There was only one reason why Azusa called. She decided how to respond to "Trivia".

"The battle is about to begin."

That night it was a new moon and there was only one city light outside the window.