



PROJECT SCARD: “TWIN WINGS OF THE MOON SHADOW”

TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD

CHAPTER 4: NEW MOON "ARTEMIS"

"The battle is about to begin."

Ran said that he was prepared, but killed his emotions so he could make a calm decision.

The fate that "The Twin Wings of Artemis" will surely meet, is the clash with "Trivia". Ever since the night in Tamabbit Garden, Ran and Jin, they were enemies who personally had mixed feelings.

Facing the battle with the fateful opponent "Trivia", it was Ran's own reaction.

Jin knew this, so he could compare the subtle facial expressions Ran was making at that moment, "Spin until you get the character you want in the social network game gacha! I was prepared to charge for it, and when I turned around using a single ticket, suddenly I got the character I was looking for."

He liked? No, he could use randomly included items as an example.

He should have cashed out after using the single ticket.

Anyway, Ran and Jin were in Azusa's room at the head office.

Due to the situation, both Ran and Jin thought that they would start moving against "Trivia".

"What's wrong? I asked you to take me to the western-style restaurant you talked about earlier. If it's not convenient, you don't have to go overboard."

"No, instead of that..."

Ran gritted his teeth.

No, he believed that if it was a large-scale confrontation with "Trivia", it would be a western restaurant.

It can't be helped if Ran looks like "Gacha (abbreviation)".

Then, when he was about to vomit, his elbow dug into his side.

He put up with it well.

"Azusa-san, are you in good physical condition?"

Ran looked out the window.

This was a new moon night. there was no moon in the sky.

Azusa, the Scard of Artemis, was greatly affected by the phases of the moon.

"Of course she's affected."

Azusa sighed lightly. It looked like it was a mess, but at that time of year it should hardly be possible to sit down.

"But more than that, I can't help but be disciplined on a moonless night. I want to go to a western-style restaurant run by two childhood friends as a distraction. The taste is endorsed by Ran, isn't it?"

"Yes, good."

Ran looked at him with a confused face, but he was in trouble if he saw it like that. He wanted to joke.

Azusa said that the western restaurant was run by Takuma, who was in the same period at Tamabbit Garden.

Since he knew him, he dreamed of running a western restaurant, and after leaving Tamabbit Garden, he left the special zone to gain cooking experience. He recently returned and set up a store in that city.

Takuma wasn't a candidate for Twin Wings, but Ran was close to him because of his culinary connection.

He was a good guy from his point of view, and it wasn't bad that he could desperately do a thing like watch an anime.

"I promised Azusa-san, so I have to fulfill it properly."

Before, he went to celebrate the opening of Wing, Takuma's store, and then to have lunch.

He had some problems at the time, but he informed Azusa by including her in a chat.

She was going to go with him, but the Twin Wings' work and sudden schedule changes happened one after another, and after all, Azusa hadn't visited Wing yet.

"However, apart from the new moon, it is unknown when "Trivia" will be installed. It is dangerous."

"I thought the safest place in the city right now was next to my wings... maybe it wasn't?"

Ran was caught at the words.

"I promised to take you, but I didn't hear anything after that. As a boss, I wouldn't be able to deal with business-oriented things..."

"That's why. I get it."

It couldn't be helped that Ran, who was completely defeated, finally gave up.

Ran rarely contradicted Azusa, but Jin had never seen him win more than that. He should stop from the beginning.

"Eh?"

Instead of being taken away, Ran even pulled out an ice sword.

Azusa shrugged when she saw it. It was Ran's own to dispel Azusa's new moon mood.

In this form, the Twin Wings drove a car with the goddess of the moon.

Isn't it a bit of a stretch to actually push with an ice sword?

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The Wing Western-style restaurant felt like a Western-style restaurant in town, both in appearance and inside.

Ran praised it as a reasonably simple interior.

Ran said that considering the location, if there was less decoration, he would miss the special feeling of eating out. However, if it were a bit more ornate, it would give the impression that it was difficult to enter. So it made sense as a business.

It was the store of a childhood friend, why not talk business?

Wing was about to open up, but Takuma graciously accepted them.

"Ran and Jin aside, I was surprised Azusa-san was here."

Takuma, who was dressed as a chef, said that.

Takuma was not a candidate for the Twin Wings, but Artemis was a longing for the children of Tamabbit Garden. Both the predecessor and Azusa.

"I've always wanted to eat here because of the recommendations. Especially if Ran says so, I can trust him."

"I'm not a food critic. My rating isn't that high."

It was quite rare for Ran to act like this.

After seeing Takuma return to the kitchen, Azusa grabbed the menu. Then she looked at them and smiled.

"Ran, Jin. Do you know what this store recommends?"

Ran wiggled his eyebrows at Azusa's comment.

"This kind of specialty is Ran's, right?"

"Well, I don't remember becoming a specialist. Recommended...?"

He was seriously thinking while he complained. He seemed to be at ease in such a place.

"It's a staple of Western food, but it's fried shrimp. The crispy batter and plump texture of the contents give a fresh texture every time you chew. As long as the batter is fried firmly, it doesn't overcook the contents. It's hard as is."

"I see. Ran's presentation is always easy to understand."

"No, I don't mean to give a presentation."

It was a very good presentation, or explanation of food. Next was Jin.

"Good. Honestly, I like burgers. It's nice that it's soft and juicy, but it's nice to be able to add various options like fried eggs and grated radish to your liking. The customization is youthful."

"Both of you were able to do it after all."

"You didn't say you wouldn't answer."

Azusa shook her shoulders happily.

"Thank you, but which one should I choose?"

"Ran. Answer."

As he said a "You...", Ran turned the menu over and showed it to Azusa.

"If you're into the fried shrimp and the burger, there's a set with both. Like Jin said, with the burger you get to choose the sauce and toppings."

"Then let's do it. Thank you, my wings."

"No, choosing a menu has nothing to do with the work of the Twin Wings, so even if you say so..."

Ran seemed to be in trouble, he was completely lost.

The voices of customers enjoying meals sounded in the store where popular songs were played (Jin was interested in nothing but anime songs).

Whenever Ran came over, he always thought that Takuma had set up a nice shop there.

Azusa also looked around the shop and loosened her mouth.

Takuma continued to skillfully cook in the kitchen where the appetizing sounds of cooking could be heard.

"The connection in Tamabbit Garden is still going on. I envy Ran and Jin."

"That's not an exaggeration. As you know, Azusa-san, the people of Tamabbit Garden are free to leave the premises. It's okay to leave town, so the relationship doesn't always last."

"Because we have an investment, the aftercare is perfect even when we go out. However, it is a fact that many people join "Artemis Finance" and group companies and stay in the city."

"Because it's a city I'm used to living in. "Finance Street" isn't bad for public safety."

"But, as Azusa-san says, there are certainly a lot of relationships between those who remain in the city. It's fine to grow up with those who entered 'Artemis Finance' in our synchronization. I wonder if Ran and I have the same relationship."

"I always thought it wouldn't have been a problem if the other Twin Wings weren't this one."

"Hey, I think it's more fun with Ran."

"The more you enjoy, the more burden I have on me. Get up in the morning."

"Because the Tamabbit Garden era relationship continues. I haven't been able to wake up since then, and Ran manages. No one understands me as much as Ran!"

"I don't remember understanding you or getting along with you. I mean, you had a lot of acquaintances in Tamabbit Garden."

"Because Ran is serious, he has decided who to face properly."

As Ran said, there were certainly plenty of people to talk to. But he felt as if he was speaking because he needed to. He didn't hurt to be nice.

Ran was clumsy in that regard and he wasn't willing to talk to anyone other than the one he was willing to deal with. First of all, he wasn't good at sprinkling kindness.

Suddenly, Azusa was looking at them.

"Sorry. I just talked about things that don't matter."

Ran was sorry, but Azusa shook her head.

"No, it was an enviable and funny story, because from my point of view, there have been important changes in the relationships since I inherited "Artemis"."

"I am the CEO of "Artemis Finance". I can't get out as easily as before."

"There is that, but thanks to "Artemis", I can't recover until night. Except for people who move mainly at night, I usually sleep at night."

"That's true..."

"If it's not nighttime on vacation, I'll look sleepy all the time. The phases of the moon can lower my blood pressure, and if I'm not careful, it's higher than necessary. Also, the CEO's

workload is often high. I miss the days when I was just a student. It's like a general member complaining about society."

Jin and Azusa laughed.

"That's why I wanted to hear the story of the Twin Wings that would be with me in time, and it's fun to hear. The memories of Tamabbit Garden, nothing that was every day. I want them to talk more and more."

Azusa had an unprecedented number of words.

"Oh, but... this isn't a job. It's a personal hope and I don't force it... Because my predecessor was a decent person, she kept a certain distance from the Twin Wings. That was probably her belief and pride."

By the way, Jin had heard that story from the previous Twin Wings.

The "Artemis" before of Azusa clearly separated private and work, and it seems that she spoke nothing but work with the Twin Wings. Although, it wasn't that there was a distance between them or that they had a bad relationship.

The predecessor Twin Wings spoke proudly, but they were lonely.

"I can't do it like my predecessor. Azusa, an ordinary human being before she became 'Artemis', has some regrets."

Azusa's shy expression was similar to when they first met her in Tamabbit Garden.

Ran softened his usual frown and involuntarily loosened his expression.

"Even so...", Azusa continued.

"Actually, I think we should think about what Artemis and the Twin Wings should be like."

"Is that the difference from the predecessor?"

Azusa pointed out Ran's issue.

"We have inherited "Artemis" and Twin Wings. It doesn't have to be the same as our predecessors. We should look for "Artemis" and Twin Wings for ourselves."

"That's what it means to set things right with "Trivia"..."

The collision with "Trivia" was inevitable for "Artemis" and the Twin Wings.

Both the predecessor of "Artemis" and the predecessor of Twin Wings had lost their lives in the battle with "Trivia", and each was losing something important.

They could also lose something from that moment.

"It's the difference between me and Jin, and the predecessor. Azusa-san is certainly different from the predecessor of "Artemis"."

Jin was sure Ran was wondering what it must have been like for his predecessor. The strict and uncompromising part of the previous "Fresweg" was quite similar to Ran, and Ran also respected that kind of place.

Jin knew the difference between Ran and his predecessors, but what did Ran think of himself?

It seemed to be difficult because he was serious.

"Is it completely different from the predecessor?"

"You are not as decent as your predecessor, "Morrigan". The name on the tattoo is just a lie."

"Eh. The predecessor is a ridiculous Tanukijijii. He had a bit of a smoke smell on his face. The name of the tattoo is "Hmm? How about? Test it. Five seconds left." The enemy is listening because he doesn't know. If you don't answer, they will attack you saying, "Then it's a punishment game!". I felt sorry for the enemy."

"Of course. As Jin says, that person was a Tanukijijii." (Old cunning)

"A-Azusa-san..."

His predecessor always put parentheses on Ran.

Azusa really knew.

"That's why I want to know about you. Jin. Can you tell me some easy to understand and Ran's embarrassing story?"

"Well... why are you like this!"

Azusa was clearly enjoying Ran's reaction. She thought his reaction was funny.

"Then, I'll tell you a special story. When Ran is worried, he does strange things, but he doesn't notice."

"Jin!", Jin ignored Ran's protesting voice.

"A while ago, when he had a big problem at a group company, he was drinking coffee while thinking about how to fix it, but he uses a jelly drink instead of milk and mix it with a protein bar instead of a spoon."

"I couldn't have done that."

"That's why I say you're not aware. The subordinates who noticed it were very surprised."

"Tell me! No, I didn't realize. It would definitely be a strange taste and texture."

"It's strange. From this point of view, it's a triple benefit with caffeine, gelatin drink and protein nutrients."

"Puff? What is that?"

"Don't you know, Ran? It's a word that means strengthening in the game."

As expected, Azusa was quite amused by it.

"Well, that's right. No, it won't get stronger. That drink..."

Ran was tired, but Jin used to drink energy drinks and coffee together. Though Ran didn't do it consciously.

"Also, it was good that he tried to insert the AA battery into the car key by mistake because it was interesting behavior from Ran. After he came back to himself, I thought he hadn't seen it, so I hid the battery in the board."

"Okay. You can walk home today."

"Well, I just responded to Azusa-san's request."

"Jin. It seems that employees who care about his health dare to walk a station when desk work continues."

"I'm moving my body a lot due to my Twin Wings work. I don't want to move anymore."

As he said that, the food was brought.

Jin ordered a hamburger and Ran ordered a set of fried prawns. He also came with salad, soup and toast. Besides, you could change to rice.

In front of Azusa, there was a juicy burger with steak and fried shrimp on the plate.

Azusa's face shone brightly, but her expression turned cloudy. Apparently it seemed to "end".

"This is in tune."

"Is the amount of food larger than you expected?"

The amount of fried shrimp was small, but the size of the burger didn't change much, so it could be larger than the whole.

"I can't eat much during the new moon. Fried food is especially hard."

"Sorry, I did not realize."

"No, I was too flirtatious. I'm a girl who ordered only her favorite foods and couldn't eat."

"Then, let's get a special dish. Jin and I worked hard today, so I'm hungry. Jin will walk home after this, so it's fine."

"Is that story still going on?! Give me a ride."

That store was off "Finance Street", so he would have to walk to his house for more than an hour.

Azusa took care of that, so he decided to do the same.

He often went out for sweets with Ran and made him cook rice, but he has only had a few private meals with the Moon Goddess.

Azusa savored and ate elegantly little by little.

As Ran politely, but the speed of the food itself was extremely fast.

It was probably normal. Ran often chewed, ate, and got angry.

After that, the three of them didn't talk about anything. Ordinary things unrelated to work, Twin wings, "trivia".

"Thanks."

Ran told Azusa while she was finishing her meal and drinking coffee.

Azusa waited for the words.

"The reason you invited us to dinner was because we felt guilty about "Trivia"."

"No."

Azusa was in a good mood.

Ran was also apt to react to that reaction. It was a weird face.

"It's a building, but it's overbought."

Azusa had some coffee in her mouth.

"I was really looking forward to trying the food at this restaurant and thinking about the relationship between "Artemis" and the Twin Wings."

Azusa cut the word short and looked at them.

"Or... maybe because I have that feeling myself."

It was an ironic tone, but they realized that the battle with "Trivia" was heavy for Azusa.

The battle with "Trivia" four years ago. Azusa's predecessor was killed in a situation similar to the current special zone, where the advance war "Trivia" was established using other organizations.

"Everything I've said so far can be capricious as a changing moon."

The appearance of being shy was not that of a goddess, but of an ordinary woman.

"It may have been one of the quirks of being worried about us..."

"It may be so."

Jin believed that these were all Azusa's true intentions.

They had already lost a lot.

Losing Mikage Ikuya was a shadow of the past that Ran couldn't erase.

Jin couldn't think of that like Ran. He also liked Ikuya as a friend, and he was sad to say goodbye, but it was a common event in special zones.

But when he thought that Ran felt a burden, the past was a dark shadow to him.

He was sure that he needed this moment now.

Ran had sworn allegiance to Azusa. He had a strong sense of duty and was serious, and he respected Azusa from the bottom of his heart.

Jin was drier, he couldn't find a boss other than Azusa, nor find a job other than Twin Wings, so he was doing that job computationally.

However, it seemed that the computational sensation had become stronger.

Also for Ran, and if his boss was Azusa, it was fine if it was a bit difficult.

Only a little.

While he was thinking about that,

"That's right. Azusa-san. What about the story when Ran was in elementary school?"

"Let's listen to it. My wings."

"It's ridiculous, Jin. You didn't talk about me right now!"

Jin talked about Ran as he watched one-sidedly.

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It was a bright night because of the new moon, probably because there were no clouds or because of the city lights.

The return car driven by Ran was silent.

Because Azusa was on board, Ran was driving more carefully than usual. Also, he told Jin, "Jin. If you talk any more, I'll push you out of the car.".

Or, rather, pushing it down was an exaggeration. He said that with a face that he would definitely do it, and finished at once.

Azusa was sitting in the back seat.

She looked like she couldn't go out on the new moon night, so she had her eyes closed, but she wasn't sleeping.

"It's bad. I'm sorry, I feel this way."

Azusa said that with nausea and shortness of breath.

"No. You're tired, please rest."

Ran gently turned the wheel.

"It was a very nice restaurant. I want to go on a full moon night. I will be able to eat the menu without problems."

Azusa said that.

"Then I want to go there too. The coffee shop you always go to. The cake is delicious, isn't it? The cake Jin made the other day was also good."

"Yes. There are many types, so I think you can find the one you like."

"Azusa-san, do you like sweets?"

"There aren't many girls who don't like sweets."

"If so, I'll make a schedule. Hey, Jin. Adjust it."

"Eh. Shall I adjust the amount of work?"

She should have been pretty busy around the next full moon.

As he pulled out his cell phone to check the schedule, Ran pulled the car to the side of the road.

He looked to the left and right of the car without exchanging words or glances.

After that, Azusa also got out of the car.

Ran and Jin got up to protect her. Azusa looked at the dark boulevard with the car body as a shield.

Ran was touching the handle of the sword before making the ice blade.

Jin was also holding an iron fan and had a natural pose.

The room temperature was clearly lower. Ran intended to seize the initiative with the power of "Fresweg" no matter how the enemy moved.

Neither Ran nor Azusa said anything, but they were aware that something had appeared.

He was crouched in the middle of a busy boulevard.

"Oh."

Ran took a breath.

He also forgot the next action for a moment.

The crouched man had a more shocked look than Ran and Jin.

"Ikuya."

Ran said that name.

It was the name of a friend who went up in flames four years ago, the night "Artemis" and "Trivia" collided.

Ikuya had bright red hair and a cheerful look like in the past.

Except for the hoodie and shirt, and the clothes that were different from those days, he looked exactly the same as he did when he disappeared, with a face that seemed to have stopped time until now.

"Ran, Jin."

Ikuya said his names and lost consciousness.