



PROJECT SCARD: “TWIN WINGS OF THE MOON SHADOW”

TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD

CHAPTER 5: FRIENDS FROM THE PAST

In the morning sun, he was driving the car again.

He stayed awake all night, but his consciousness was very clear.

The light that entered through the window pierced his eyes. He was lucky not to be able to see the sun in cloudy weather. Outside the special zone, he saw a different city than usual.

It was still daytime, but that day Jin and Ran were escorting Azusa as Twin Wings.

The destination was the office of a foreign affiliated company in Tokyo. There was an important meeting there.

At that time just after the new moon, they would normally adjust the schedule in consideration of Azusa's exhaustion, but this time he couldn't help it due to various factors. It was a project they couldn't even represent.

So, Ran and Jin accompanied her, preparing for the attack on Azusa.

"Is this Ran's car? I was thinking of buying a car if I got a driver's license. Well, this kind of car."

Besides Jin, there was a carefree guy in the car.

Mikage Ikuya was in the back seat.

Jin was sitting next to Ikuya, and Azusa was asked to sit in the passenger seat as usual.

"Ikuya. You shouldn't say that."

"Certainly. As Ran says."

Ikuya smiled bitterly.

Ikuya who appeared in front of them yesterday, was protected by "Artemis Finance".

Ikuya was unconscious, but he woke up early in the morning.

It was decided without discussion what to do with Ikuya when Azusa and them had no choice but to leave the company.

Ran, Jin, and Azusa had no choice but to keep an eye on him.

To be clear, Ikuya was unidentified and a mass of risk. It was impossible for someone who disappeared four years ago to appear as he was.

It was more realistic to think that he was something created by a mysterious Scard. A Scard had also appeared that changed his appearance. Another possibility was that Jin

was displaying an illusion of "Morrigan"... As expected, he wasn't always such a distasteful person.

"Ran, Jin. It's a test."

Ikuya asked how in those days.

"Who do you think I am?"

"We want to hear that. Are you kidding me?"

"I'm not kidding. Ran's right, but I'm in trouble because I don't really know who I am."

"Who knows."

"I agree with Ran and "don't know". Don't think that the current exchange is a conversation like Ran and Ikuya's."

Jin looked at him and smiled.

"Ikuya. I'll give you the latest information. Recently, Ran is giving a quiz like "Do you understand?"."

"Ran. Did you like the quiz? He always answered upset."

"I used your habit as a hint, but don't say it as if you were imitating it. When communicating information, it's better to provoke the other person's reaction than just talking. It's like a teacher asking a student a question."

"Was that so? I'm new to you too."

Well... he couldn't deny the fact that Ikuya was gone, so he was mimicking him before he knew it. He didn't say it because it was a pain to be disgusted by Jin.

Jin's upset face was reflected in the car mirror, but was ignored.

"Fu.", a small laugh. Azusa in the passenger seat closed her eyes, but she was listening to the conversation.

"But... for now, you are the shadowless Ikuya we know."

It was not just the figure and the current change.

The strength that did not go away from the eyes while he was confused by the situation, the bright smile with a bitter smile, and the fine gestures could only be seen as Ikuya in his memory.

"Then talk about yourself. It's been four years since you disappeared, and we're just talking about what's going on."

"That's right. Washimine Ran demands that. Ran always calmly taught me what to do."

It seemed that Ikuya was unaffected by overestimating people like that and trying to manage even in such an abnormal situation.

"The position we're sitting in is also Ran's judgment. I'm unidentified in the back seat, which is also behind Ran himself. Jin next to the back seat can also guard against me, at the farthest distance from Azusa- san."

"The most dangerous thing about this way of sitting is Ran, who seems to be the same old Ran. It's fine. I'm looking at him correctly."

"I'm glad you care. My wings."

"I just made it a natural fix."

It seems that Ikuya saw the intention immediately.

"Ikuya. Talk to me. That's not what I was asking about."

"That's right." Ikuya said, opening his mouth.

"I remember the night Tamabbit Garden was attacked. I helped the children and then the flames blocked my way through the collapsing building. I lost my memory once there."

"History as we know it."

"Next question. Why were you there last night?"

"The next memory was after I woke up. I woke up in a hospital room somewhere. Various devices were attached to my body. That night and the situation after that... "Trivia", I thought it killed me. I didn't think four years had passed."

"It's a reasonable idea, but it's a good guess."

"However, it seems that Ikuya is taking the worst of holding out."

"Some time later, a person arrived, perhaps because the connected machine had informed him that I had woken up. He looked like a normal doctor. So I was inspected."

"In fact, was the opponent "Trivia"?"

"I don't know. However, he was confused when I asked a question, so I decided he was crazy. So after that, I kept pretending to be a hollow, and when the other side was off guard, I ran away."

Azusa, who had her eyes closed on the passenger seat, let out a scream.

"He's incredibly active. It's Ikuya's behavior that I've heard from Ran."

"Not the case when you're impressed."

Certainly Ikuya was a guy who acted with a quick decision. He sometimes made mistakes, but he was also confused, so it was basically the right decision.

The training he had received as a Twin Wing candidate enhanced that ability.

"I found out that the facility is in an office building in Tokyo by checking the name of the place outside. Then I got a change of clothes and a cell phone through poor means and moved to the special area with the garbage."

"He's smart, he's really Ikuya."

"I did bad things to both the person I borrowed the cell phone from and the store I borrowed the clothes from. I have to apologize, Ran, Jin. Is there a way?"

"That is not the case now."

"If you search his cell phone, you can contact him, but later."

If he believed Ikuya's words, it wasn't a very amateurish action. For example, he must have come up with something just by deleting someone else's cell phone route. But if this guy was Mikage Ikuya, he could do that.

"Why did you appear before us?"

"That's a coincidence. I was heading to "Artemis Finance"."

Certainly, they met Ikuya on the main street leading to the head office.

"At the time, I was at my limit. I was so tired. I'm still pretty sleepy."

"Even the test we ran while you were sleeping showed that you were quite exhausted."

The doctor who examined Ikuya said that the cause of his fainting was exhaustion and tension.

"At the time, when I saw the parked car and someone got out, I thought it was a chase, but that was the face I knew."

Ikuya in the backseat had a loose smile.

"But I was really surprised. It's been four years since then. Both Ran and Jin have grown up."

"Actually..."

"We are the same. Ikuya, who I thought was dead, is here as he is."

"That's right. I'd be surprised if I were you."

Ikuya laughed casually, but there was a shadow that he wasn't there at the time.

The conversation naturally stopped. What was he like four years ago?

You never used to feel uncomfortable about silence. But now he felt frustrated like he should say something.

However, he couldn't think of a word to Ikuya with a smile that wouldn't change except for a slight shadow.

"Uh..."

It was Azusa who broke the silence in the car.

"Are we coming soon? I wanted to know more about the memories of the three of you."

Jin quickly gathered what she needed for the meeting.

"I hope you keep your old relationship warm during the meeting. Tell me interesting stories later."

The instructions she gave made the air in the car lighter.

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While Azusa attended the meeting, they rented a room in the building and waited.

The situation was tense due to the "Trivia" move, but unlike the special zone, Azusa was highly unlikely to be attacked in Tokyo. Also, that room was close to where Azusa was, so they could run immediately. Even if there was an attack from the outside, they could block the path that led to Azusa's whereabouts.

It was a room they chose based on that.

"Anyway, Ran and Jin are Twin Wings? Congratulations!", Ikuya said with the same face from that time.

"Thank you." Jin answered lightly.

"I thought Ran and Jin had the right balance as Twin Wings. He's a leader. I have good eyes."

"Don't praise yourself. The balance isn't good. Jin's wings are too light, which puts a lot of demands on me."

"I think it's exactly as Ikuya says. I'm making up for what I'm not good at with Ran."

"When it comes to making amends, I have more to do. First, you should get up alone in the morning."

"Huh? Jin, does Ran still wake you up? Normally, when you become a member of the society, you'll wake up by yourself. Isn't it a lie that four years have passed?"

"It's like he tells you, Jin."

"I don't have to change. That's what it means to be together."

"Anyway, it's the line from the anime you watched recently."

"Correct answer. As expected, typical of Ran. It's an idol anime, but do you see the actual video? Ah, but if you don't watch the 10th episode before that, can't you understand the goodness of this line? I can see that too."

"No, I don't look at it."

Ikuya laughed and rolled over.

For a moment, Jin pushed a little.

Four years have passed and everything has changed. However, at that time, as Ikuya said, the fact that four years had passed seemed like a lie.

"Ran, Jin."

Ikuya turned to them again. The tiredness remained, but his raised eyebrows and upward looking eyes seemed to be typical of Ikuya.

"I want to hear what you think. Who am I?"

"It's fine."

He prepared the blackboard installed in the room and wrote there.

"What is Mikage Ikuya?"

"First of all, Ikuya's own information as subjectivity is available. Is there any shortage?"

He wrote the information.

Ikuya had memories from up to four years ago, but the later memories were only from the time he woke up until he found them.

"However, that information is subjective to Ikuya. There is no evidence that he isn't lying. It takes time for me and Ran to be behind the scenes."

They had the intelligence department investigate where Ikuya woke up, but the investigation had just started. Even if there was a research institute under a certain company, it was time to investigate the relationship thoroughly.

"I have also examined your body, but I still don't have enough information. As soon as I finish Azusa-san's meeting and return to "Artemis Finance", I will do a more detailed test."

"It takes time for the inspection to get the result."

In other words, at present, Ikuya's own story is not believable and there is not enough information about where Ikuya was or medical information.

He erases the items written on the board with double lines.

"Ran. It's completely a business meeting mode."

"It's easy to understand."

"Jin hasn't changed either."

Ikuya, who was yelling, clapped his hands together with an "Ah."

"That's right. So how about this?"

Ikuya wrote on the blackboard.

"A story that only the leader knows."

"It's gone from being a meeting to something like a project."

"I see. I give information that Ikuya doesn't know that he is not himself. We are the ones who judge the truth."

"Oh, yeah, come on!"

Ikuya cleared his throat.

"Jin, do you remember? The day the predecessor of "Artemis" visited Tamabbit Garden. At that time, we met our predecessor for the first time."

"Oh. I remember."

Ran remembered it too.

When the predecessor of "Artemis" was well, they were still in elementary school.

"Artemis" investing in Tamabbit Garden, as CFO, "Artemis" kept visiting and inspecting to meet the children who would eventually become Twin Wings.

"I was very nervous at the time, I was so nervous I couldn't sleep and I distinctly remember waking up in the middle of the night."

"Don't say it properly. Are you a faker after all?"

"Huh? I know. When I was a child, I often couldn't sleep at night. When I was nervous or when I had something I didn't like during the day. At that time, I would wake up for some reason."

"It's because of my mind."

That's why it was troublesome for someone who was in a long relationship.

"Hey, Ikuya. If you say you're real, tell me what only you know about Jin. We need a multifaceted verification."

"Say something like that and it diverts the story."

Jin sharpened his lips, but he knew it.

"Jin's secret..."

Ikuya thought with his arms crossed.

"I think Ran knows everything I know about Jin."

"Eh?"

"Somehow..."

Ikuya rarely tuned in.

"It's finally time. Don't worry about it. Multilaterally."

Jin's face distorted.

"If so...", Ikuya continued, still wondering.

"This is hard to say. Jin just shows me the good side of him. He seems like he has a hole and he doesn't have a hole."

"There's no chance, it's just the outside."

Even though he missed work so much, his subordinates had a good reputation for him. He seemed to be a kind and caring boss.

Jin smiled like always.

"That's why, even if I say something, I feel like it's just Jin in general."

"Indeed, it may just be Ran talking about all the anime titles I've been addicted to recently."

"Isn't that just trash talk?"

"Anyway, he's our leader. If you look closely, it's a correct answer for me too."

"You can't say anything after all. Is that okay?"

Jin seemed convinced.

Well, Ran also believed that Ikuya's memory was real. He couldn't get it by looking for the boring story. The same was true for fine gestures that didn't matter.

When he met the changeling Scard as an employee, he knew at a glance that it was different than usual. He just mimics the angle of the arc.

"Temporarily, I will make you a true Mikage Ikuya."

"Ok! So... what happened during these four years?"

It was the speed and division of holding Ikuya.

"Oh, but to get the answer, where were you? If you were captured, you have to think about who did that."

To be clear, it was natural to think of the situation as "Trivia".

"It's more unnatural to say it's irrelevant. However, Ikuya. You don't remember that time, and you don't have any information even after you wake up."

"It's bad. I should have looked into something. It's my mistake."

"I don't expect that much."

"It's strange to think normally and wake up and take the right step to escape. I can't believe it if it wasn't Ikuya."

Ikuya behaved brilliantly, but the color of fatigue was dark. He had done enough; it was really cruel to ask for more.

"There are two questions that cannot be answered immediately."

He wrote on the board.

"One is: what happened to Ikuya four years ago?"

"For example, if they put me to sleep with medicine... I think he should be weak and stuck."

He was tired, but Ikuya was healthy. The test results also showed that.

"If so, it's probably a Scard's ability."

"But as far as we know, "Trivia" doesn't have any Scards that affect the others."

There was none of that in the past information or current information compiled by the Information Department.

"And another question. Whether the criminal is "Trivia" or not, did he catch Ikuya and put him to sleep for four years?"

Jin looked at him with a cold face.

Ikuya stalled trying to say something.

"Like Ran says, you don't get the answer right away, do you? You don't have to think about it now."

It was Azusa who entered the room and said that.

Jin seemed to have noticed her and opened the door to greet her.

"Azusa-san. Is the meeting over?"

"The schedule has been reduced, so I'll take a break."

Azusa pulled out of the chair, sat down deeply and took a breath. After all, her complexion wasn't that good, but she looked the same as always.

"Did they warm up the old relationship to their heart's content?"

"I was listening like a job."

"It's terrible. But it seems to be typical of Ran."

Ikuya's tension had eased. Probably theirs too.

"Then I will inform Ran about my work."

He briefly summarized the exchanges so far and spoke with Azusa.

Azusa sank into a chair and listened to him.

After hearing everything, she looked at Ikuya saying, "I see."

"By the way, Mikage liked sweets. He was eating rolls."

"Eh. Yes. I remember well."

"They were what could be my Twin Wings. I knew that as such."

Azusa narrowed her eyes in mischief.

"Ran. We're all tired. Don't you think today is the day to go to the store recommended by you?"

"Do you want to go for a cake?"

"Correct answer."

"Ok. I'll be back in the special area tonight. Let's go by then."

She laughed unintentionally.

The proposition was Azusa would be true. However, at the same time, it was also an action of reading the air of that place.

"When you finish your work, you will be rewarded. If so, I can do my best."

After all, Azusa stretched a lot and left the room with a refreshing air.

"She is a much more interesting person than she expected. Azusa-san."

Seeing her back, Ikuya said that.

"Also, both Ran and Jin are great twin Wings."

They couldn't see Ikuya's expression as he didn't look back.

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"That's why he was so mad at Ran's predecessor, Twin Wings."

"Oh, yeah. Oh, I'm sorry I did, but it was Ran's fault."

"Don't say it as someone else's business. You were willing to rub me from the beginning! That man knew and attacked me."

"Isn't that kind of like pushing and putting Ran seriously?"

"That kind of trick is old."

"I'm hearing that for the first time. I'm glad to hear many amazing stories about Ran."

Azusa on the passenger seat covered her mouth and shrugged her shoulders. She looked like she got stuck in a pot.

"It was a long time ago and he vanished... No, I won't tell Azusa-san. At least not from behind."

Azusa laughed too hard and she couldn't reply, waving like "I know."

They were going back to the special zone.

The outside of the window was tinged with the setting sun, but it wasn't quite dark yet.

Azusa's meeting ended without delay.

They had no more information from Ikuya than that, and they were talking to Ikuya about the special zone after that night.

"Fortunately, I didn't come to work in a hurry. I'll stop at the coffee shop as scheduled and then return to the company."

"Oh, I'll ask you that way. I'm looking forward to it."

Azusa closed her eyes.

When he saw her, Ikuya made a surprised face.

"Although you didn't feel well, you spoke in good conditions. I'm sorry."

He said something new.

"More like, I feel better. Thanks to the three of you."

He smiled at Azusa's words.

Ran was not surprised at all. He hoped that Azusa was fine with that.

They were approaching the special area.

The Kazuki River, which separated the special zone from Yanagihana City in the north of the special zone, came into view.

If you cross the long Tsukuyo bridge, it's "Finance Street".

"Mikage Ikuya.", Azusa said his name.

Ikuya looking out the window unintentionally stretched his spine.

"It is my role to protect those who are under the moonlight. It is the role of "Artemis". Even after four years, you are still protected by the moonlight."

She said in a low powerful voice.

"We protect you. Make sure you find out what happened to you. That's right, my wings."

"If Azusa-san wants that, the Twin Wings will follow you."

"Ran is a good person, so I think he'll help Ikuya anyway. I'm a childhood friend, so I'll help you."

Ikuya blinked and smiled a happy and sour smile.

The car crossed the Kazuki River, which was reflecting the sunset, and entered the special zone.

The orderly streets of "Finance Street" were also dyed sun red.

They were running under the power of "Artemis", a familiar city.

"Driving gets rough."

"I know."

It was at the same time that he had a brief conversation with Azusa and suddenly hit the brakes.

Both Azusa and the two in the backseat were braced for the impact. Ikuya's intuition was the same as at that time.

He skidded the tires and stopped the car suddenly, Ran and Jin jumped as they were.

"Oh!"

He already had an ice sword in his hand.

A swinging blow with all his might dispelled the chunk of flame that flew out.

The flame missed the car and landed behind it. Asphalt roared and crushed.

As he walked out in front of the car with Jin, he looked at the enemy who launched the attack.

Two people stood in the sunset.

One was a middle-aged man wearing a suit. The age was the same or even older than the predecessor Twin Wings.

But he couldn't feel the decline of that.

They could see at a glance that he was tall enough to look up and had been trained to the limit, even from the top of his skintight suit.

His white hair stood out, but his eyes were filled with a strong will and fighting spirit that could irritate his skin.

"You've avoided it, boy! No. That car is a good car. Even though it's a battle, I thought it was a waste to blow it up! Well done!"

He held a pair of swords in both hands and said something silly in a good mood.

"Hey. But how are you? Seriousness first, isn't it?"

It was another man who spoke with a sigh. That boy was too young for them.

Apart from his age, he contrasted with the man with two swords.

He was wearing a suit, but he had a playful look with a loose collar and tie. Slender and with a smile, he stealthily stared at them.

The appearance of carrying a long spear on his shoulder looked like two sticks standing up.

Jin, Ran, and Azusa all knew who those two people were.

"Double Sword of Trivia."

"This is the first time I've met Ran in person."

They were some "Trivia" Scards that were combined with the Twin Wings.

"Ah! I wanted to meet you, "Twin Wings of Artemis"!"

"Twin Wings, nice to meet you."

They knew the Scards who had fought fierce battles with the predecessor Twin Wings.

They were also the enemy that attacked Tamabbit Garden four years ago.

The "Fresweg" tattoo that was with the predecessor shone and conveyed a piercing coldness. Orchid's Morrigan was also glowing faintly.

It meant that the tattoos were also burning fighting spirit.

The enemy in front of them was a deeply connected enemy, unlike the enemies they had fought up to now.