



MINI EPISODES: SNOW AND FLAME

TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD

This land turns dazzlingly white in winter. This is because the snow that accumulates from the sky stains the entire earth. Adults are overwhelmed with snow removal work, and children are busy caring for cows and horses. She can't play outside while snowing, so she just has to study. Therefore, the children of this land were always distressed during the winter.

Sophie was one of the few exceptions.

She liked snow. She likes to watch the falling snow and listen to the quiet sound. It was also Sophie's daily routine taking a walk in the woods near her home, stepping on fresh snow that no one had ever stepped on. As she walked among the snow-covered trees, she felt as if she had become a winter spirit, and she felt her heart rise.

So it was also Sophie who found "it" the first time.

At first, "Pain" looked like a block of snow that had grown thickly at the root of the tree. When she tries to pass by inadvertently, she notices that a red object was visible and hidden due to the snow.

".....?"

She thought it was raspberry, but Sophie, who walks every day, knows that no fruit grows here. When she approached with interest and looked seriously, she discovered what it was.

It was hair.

Sophie was surprised, even with her big round eyes. She was also a red-haired girl who was teased by "Redhead" at school, but was even more crisp and crimson.

She reaches out and tries to pull.

"Hm..."

Surprisingly, a lot of snow groaned.

In front of Sophie, the chunk of snow slowly collapsed. Among them was a man with red hair.

The man turned to Sophie with sleepy eyes and yawned. Then he turned his head and made a loud voice.

"I slept well."

Sophie thoughtfully asked:

"Do you want to die?"

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The man called himself Suoh.

She got tired of pulling a frozen body out of her favorite place. Sophie pulled the yawned Suoh and carried it back to her home near there.

Sophie's parents, who ran the ranch, rolled their eyes in black and white when they saw the red-haired man whose daughter took him home.

However, they agreed with Sophie's claim that if she left him as it was in the winter season, they would have a bad taste in their mouth during the thaw season, and she rented an inn overnight to wrap up the story.

Suoh was an awfully quiet man.

What were you doing? Where you come from? Where are you going? Oriental? Can you speak English? What are you doing at work? Do you have any favorite food? He answers all her curious mother's questions, in one word. Her mother seemed dissatisfied with the short answer, but he was popular with Sophie and her father: it is the saying of her father that he is a man who does not speak much.

The following is a summary of the situation of Suoh's response.

"I mean, Suoh just slept there, there was no way to go South to anywhere. He is from Japan. People speak English. His job is music. His favorite food is alcohol?"

"Oh."

"Hmm. Are the Japanese okay to sleep in the snow?"

"It doesn't bother me."

"Oh, I know! Are you a ninja, Suoh? I've heard that all Japanese are ninjas."

Except that, Suoh laughed weakly for the first time after they met.

Seeing that smile, Sophie was confused. Somehow, it was a strange feeling, with a mixture of joy and a little fear, as if the lion had hit her with its tail.

With confused eyes she pointed to the case Suoh was carrying on his back.

"Is it a guitar case?"

"That's right."

"You can play the guitar?"

Suoh did not answer and took out the guitar.

A shiny silver fire pattern. Sophie is not familiar with guitars, but just thought it was pretty.

So Suoh started playing the guitar.

At first, only Sophie was listening, but eventually the father, mother, brother, and people who worked at the ranch came together for being drawn to it.

Nobody said anything. She had a similar face. Sophie was the same. She forgets to breathe and watch Suoh play the guitar.

It was the first time since she was born that she has heard something so beautiful.

There was no joy after Suoh played the guitar. There was no applause. However, everyone was silent with their eyes open.

Finally, Sophie's father told her to speak up for everyone's feelings.

"Hey, Suoh. I hope it's okay... I'll be here occasionally, so why don't you let me listen to your guitar?"

After all, Suoh's response was short.

"Yes."

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Suoh was in every Sophie's day.

That said, Suoh did nothing. He was playing on the guitar, lying down, vaguely looking at the sky, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol all day.

When someone says something to he, he does it. Like shoveling snow, caring for cows, cleaning deposits. However, if you take your eyes off, he will stop and go somewhere. It doesn't feel lazy. Somehow it will happen naturally.

He used to drink liquor alone, but sometimes he used to drink with the ranch workers. Rather, the worker wanted to drink with Suoh. However, Suoh had no compassion, and even if someone spoke to him, he would respond briefly or even clearly ignore him.

Once, a gloomy worker was angry at the attitude and confronted Suoh.

From the next day, everyone believed Sophie's theory that Suoh was actually a ninja.

He plays the guitar once a day. After dinner. Only then did everyone gather in front of the fireplace and listen to Suoh's guitar. Even the workers who were hit by Suoh were fascinated by the music with their swollen and delighted faces.

However, sometimes he actually played twice a day.

In the forest where Sophie found Suoh, Suoh sometimes played the guitar alone with Sophie. He didn't show them, Suoh took a walk, and the concert started when he had a guitar.

It seems that the snowy forest is so deep that it absorbs all sounds. In the white snow, Sophie is gathering music like the jewel of the deep sea. Sophie closed her eyes and was just biting the happiness of enjoying it.

After listening to the music, Sophie stopped for a moment and sighed.

"It's warm."

Suoh, who was playing on the guitar, looked at Sophie with his big eyes. It's the first time he's seen her like this, so Sophie asked him.

"Ah, what?"

"...Unpleasant. It reminded me of a guy who said something similar."

It was also the first time that Suoh spoke that long. Seeing his eyes looking somewhere far away, Sophie tightened her grip on the hem.

"Hey, Suoh. That..."

"Hm?"

"Hm, that..."

Stay here forever, let's listen to the guitar forever.

For some reason, the word stayed in her throat and didn't come out.

Suoh was looking at Sophie, but when he realized that she couldn't say anything, he stood up with his guitar in the case.

Suoh left the next day.

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"I heard there is a "flame" here!"

Screaming like that, Sophie's parents looked at each other when they saw a man in a suit running.

He was a producer in the music industry and had a contract with an artist. Initially starting in a small venue, the artist quickly became a hot topic and became so popular that it filled concert halls in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. Across the United States, they were enthusiastic about his music, and when live concerts were to be decided, the artist suddenly disappeared.

That is "Flame". He means, Mikoto Suoh.

Her mother covered her mouth, "Good!" And her father nodded, "I see."

"It makes sense that Suoh's guitar is so impressive. He is a great musician."

"Millions, not tens of millions, are waiting for his music! Where is he now?!"

"He was asking to shovel, but I always leave him alone and he go somewhere. Let our helpers find him."

Sophie rushed into her forest when she saw the adults begin to move.

Suoh was in the forest.

He was sitting on a log and playing the guitar. Seeing that, Sophie realized that Suoh was not listening to the music, and that he was there when he played the guitar.

Even with pity, the music Suoh played was still beautiful.

Finally, after finishing the song, Suoh put the guitar in its case. A look at Sophie.

Sophie turned to Suoh and noticed that there was a backpack under his feet.

It's the same poor bag he had when he was here and there.

Sophie learned that her intuition was correct.

"You're going to go?"

Suoh shrugged and replied to Sophie's trembling voice.

"It's getting loud."

Sophie looked down.

Sophie knew this day would come sometime.

Suoh stopped here. As if a lion that lived in the savannah stopped at a source of drinking water. Eventually he will leave and walk to a place that suits his best. She doesn't know if it's a big stage in the sun or his hometown where his friends are waiting, but it's certainly not here.

She couldn't say that he shouldn't go. It is just empty when she says so. She didn't want to cry madly in front of this mysterious but beautiful man.

Still, she thought there would never be a jewel-like music in this forest again, and she was so sad that she could feel her heart.

Tears spilled from Sophie's face-down eyes. It is absorbed by the snow under her feet.

Suoh's footsteps came closer to drown out the sound.

Sophie felt a heat on her head.

Looking up, Suoh was laughing. Looking at Sophie with a look like looking at an inevitable child,

"See you."

Sophie blinked.

Rubbing her eyes roughly with the sleeves. The tears cannot be said to have wiped away, but Sophie still laughed when she touched Suoh's hand on her head.

"See you."

Then Mikoto Suoh left.