

# E19 - Strike While the Iron Is Hot

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**[00:08]** ---

"Continental Calendar"

"Early November, 1546"

**[00:14]** ---

How is that matter coming along?

**[00:16]** ---

Sire, the plan is making steady progress.

**[00:19]** ---

One might even...

say it is going smoothly.

**[00:23]** ---

That sounds a little evasive. Is there something we should be worried about?

**[00:28]** ---

It may be going a bit *too* smoothly.

**[00:32]** ---

Almost like there was some other will at work.

**[00:36]** ---

In which case,

**[00:37]** ---

it is conceivable that the outcome could take an unexpected turn.

**[00:41]** ---

I'd like to avoid any unforeseen circumstances,

**[00:43]** ---

but at this point, we can't exactly back out, either.

**[00:46]** ---

No, sire.

**[00:47]** ---

We can't alter the plan.

**[00:49]** ---

Keep your eyes open for any changes,

and move things forward.

**[00:53]** ---

Understood.

**[00:55]** ---

Your Majesty!

**[00:59]** ---

What's with the rush?

**[01:02]** ---

A-And Prime Minister,  
please excuse my interruption.

**[01:07]** ---

So, what's the matter, Ludwin?

**[01:12]** ---

A-An acquaintance of mine has  
done something outrageous!

**[01:18]** ---

Something outrageous?

**[01:21]** ---

"...Keep on going anyway"

**[01:23]** ---

*Our bond strikes deep into my left breast*

**[01:36]** ---

*We enjoy a fleeting happiness  
after weathering one fog,*

**[01:41]** ---

*until our vision becomes obscured again*

**[01:47]** ---

*Bitterly betrayed, we grow  
disgusted by our destiny*

**[01:52]** ---

*But why does the dawn still come?*

**[01:57]** ---

*We close our eyes and try to remember*

**[02:02]** ---

*the chance of stopping, of never meeting*

**[02:07]** ---

*From boundless zero to infinity,*

**[02:13]** ---

*dreaming is the heartbeat of believing*

**[02:19]** ---

*We'll move along alone and in pairs*

**[02:22]** ---

*Don't stay put; our small,  
though by no means helpless steps*

**[02:28]** ---

*will open uncharted territory  
for each of us*

**[02:33]** ---

*Realize we will never again  
let our dreams die on the vine*

**[02:39]** ---

*The tear tracks that run down  
our cheeks are shooting stars*

**[02:46]** ---

*We're going to grab hold of them*

**[02:51]** ---

"Strike While the Iron is Hot"

**[03:00]** ---

So this person is a childhood  
friend of Ludwin's, right?

**[03:04]** ---

Yeah, she's been called the  
Forbidden Army's mad scientist.

**[03:07]** ---

The Forbidden Army's... It seems like  
I've heard of her somewhere before.

**[03:13]** ---

A garage?!

**[03:15]** ---

Er, nothing, never mind.

**[03:18]** ---

Ludwin, what is this?

**[03:21]** ---

A dungeon entrance, Your Majesty.

**[03:23]** ---

Dungeon? You mean like  
a "dungeon" dungeon?

**[03:26]** ---

Is it supposed to be so artificial?

**[03:29]** ---

There are many different types.  
There are caves,

**[03:33]** ---

the basements of fortresses,  
paved with stone,

**[03:37]** ---

and even mysterious spaces  
encased by metal.

**[03:40]** ---

And this is an abandoned dungeon,

**[03:43]** ---

bequeathed by the royal family,  
turned into a research facility,

**[03:47]** ---

and moved into by the  
eccentric Maxwell family.

**[03:51]** ---

Genia? It's me, Ludwin Arcs.

**[03:57]** ---

Genia, are you all right?!

**[03:58]** ---

Lu, you called out and startled me,  
so I knocked some things over.

**[04:04]** ---

Whew, I'm just glad there weren't any  
dangerous chemicals or anything.

**[04:19]** ---

It's metal.

**[04:22]** ---

What are you doing?

**[04:23]** ---

Huh? The floor is glowing.  
You don't think that's strange?

**[04:27]** ---

Must be magic.

**[04:30]** ---

It must be because you can  
do anything with magic here

**[04:33]** ---

that Liscia and the others feel less  
than bowled over by all this.

**[04:40]** ---

This is the lowest level,  
where Genia's laboratory is.

**[04:52]** ---

Wh-What is this place?!

**[05:09]** ---

Your Majesty...

**[05:10]** ---

This is Genia's laboratory.

**[05:16]** ---

Okay, I'm coming now, Lu.

**[05:21]** ---

Hey, Lu. Thanks for coming.

**[05:25]** ---

Who are those two guys?

**[05:27]** ---

H-Hey! How rude! This is His Majesty  
King Souma and Princess Liscia!

**[05:33]** ---

I'm terribly sorry about this,

Your Majesty, Princess!

**[05:36]** ---

Ah, you're right.

**[05:38]** ---

On closer look, I see your face all  
the time on the Gemstone Broadcasts.

**[05:44]** ---

It is an honor to meet you, Your Majesty.  
My name is Genia Maxwell.

**[05:50]** ---

Souma Kazuya, provisional king  
of the Kingdom of Elfrieden.

**[05:55]** ---

This is my fiancée...

**[05:56]** ---

Liscia Elfrieden.

**[05:59]** ---

I am well aware! I humbly proffer you  
all good health and every happiness!

**[06:05]** ---

You don't have to be so formal with us.

**[06:08]** ---

We're the ones who are  
dropping in on you, after all.

**[06:11]** ---

Just speak casually to us, please.

**[06:14]** ---

Oh, yeah? Okay, then, you betcha.

**[06:17]** ---

G-Genia!

**[06:19]** ---

It's all right.

**[06:20]** ---

B-But sire...

**[06:21]** ---

We'll deal with the "outrage"  
business later.

**[06:24]** ---

Right now, I'm more  
interested in Genia herself.

**[06:30]** ---

I hate to stand out here and talk,  
so come on in. I'll make us some coffee.

**[06:43]** ---

Let's start over. I am Genia Maxwell,

**[06:47]** ---

researcher, scientist, and inventor.

**[06:52]** ---

Oh, I suppose I'm also  
a Forbidden Army mage.

**[06:56]** ---

I was with the weapons  
development division,

**[06:58]** ---

but I did some things  
that got me dismissed.

**[07:01]** ---

What did you do?

**[07:02]** ---

She created something quite scandalous.

**[07:05]** ---

You know how war tears up  
the countryside, right?

**[07:08]** ---

Well I made these arrowheads loaded  
with seeds for fast-growing plants

**[07:12]** ---

so that wherever there was a war,  
there would be lots of greenery.

**[07:16]** ---

Tr-Tree-planting during wartime? That idea  
is a bit too far-fetched, isn't it?

**[07:22]** ---

I hate to blow my own horn...

**[07:26]** ---

...but I think it was a great idea.

**[07:28]** ---

But maybe I shouldn't have had  
them enchanted with light magic

**[07:32]** ---

to help accelerate the plants' growth.

**[07:37]** ---

I remember!

**[07:39]** ---

The mad scientist of the Forbidden Army!  
That was *your* doing, wasn't it?

**[07:44]** ---

Hmm?

**[07:45]** ---

I'm not sure I want to ask,  
but what happened?

**[07:49]** ---

Well, you see, before  
you were summoned here,

**[07:52]** ---

a training ground and  
the laboratory attached to it

**[07:55]** ---

were once swallowed up by a sea of trees.

**[08:10]** ---

I never expected it to end up  
like that all at once.

**[08:14]** ---

Uh-huh...

**[08:16]** ---

Genia, don't get started.

**[08:17]** ---

I didn't like the atmosphere  
in the development division.

**[08:21]** ---

It's weird for everyone to be going  
in the same direction, isn't it?

**[08:26]** ---

There should be more  
freedom of ideas, right?

**[08:29]** ---

I believe that superior inventions  
are born of free ideas.

**[08:35]** ---

Ludwin, you sure have your  
hands full with her, huh?

**[08:37]** ---

Your Majesty!

**[08:40]** ---

By the way, King, do you know what  
kind of lineage the Maxwells have?

**[08:44]** ---

Oh, their house distinguished  
themselves by researching

**[08:47]** ---

the artifacts that have been  
brought back from dungeons.

**[08:50]** ---

Yes. My family has been conducting  
research for generations.

**[08:55]** ---

And after all those years of research,

**[08:57]** ---

we've started to get a vague  
glimpse of "something."

**[09:01]** ---

"Something"?

**[09:03]** ---

A natural law, separate from magic.

**[09:07]** ---

A separate natural law?

**[09:09]** ---

King, you use Gemstones a lot, right?

**[09:13]** ---

Do you understand what  
sort of things those are?

**[09:17]** ---

Yes, as I understand it, they are ancient  
artifacts discovered in dungeons,

**[09:22]** ---

and the magic of the Sylph wind spirits,

**[09:25]** ---

and the Undine water spirits are  
incorporated within them, right?

**[09:29]** ---

That's how they deliver  
the picture and sound.

**[09:33]** ---

There are two things wrong  
with your perception.

**[09:37]** ---

Wrong?

**[09:39]** ---

The first is the part where  
the magic of Sylph wind spirits,

**[09:43]** ---

and that of the Undine water  
spirits are incorporated.

**[09:49]** ---

But there *are* spirits, right?

**[09:52]** ---

I-I've never seen one, myself.  
Spirits come from the world of mythology.

**[09:57]** ---

So then, that doesn't  
prove their existence.

**[10:02]** ---

Because of the magic in our world,  
the truth becomes harder to see.

**[10:10]** ---

Everything that is mysterious  
gets categorized

**[10:13]** ---

as being the power of magic or spirits.

**[10:17]** ---

As a result, there are a lot  
of things nobody sees.

**[10:21]** ---

The truth is like this, though--

**[10:23]** ---

While researching the Gemstones  
that were found in the dungeons,

**[10:27]** ---

it was discovered by accident that if you  
use water and wind magic on them,

**[10:30]** ---

they took in the view  
that was around them,

**[10:33]** ---

and projected it to the receivers  
that were also discovered with them.

**[10:41]** ---

The business about Sylph and Undine magic

**[10:44]** ---

is the thinking that maybe it's the grace  
of these spirits that makes it possible,

**[10:48]** ---

and is nothing more than an afterthought.

**[10:51]** ---

So you're saying that  
there aren't any spirits?

**[10:54]** ---

I can't say that for certain, either.  
I mean, it's possible that there are.

**[11:03]** ---

And so, the second part you have wrong...

**[11:07]** ---

...is the part where the "picture  
and sound are delivered."

**[11:12]** ---

N-No, that part's not wrong, is it?

**[11:16]** ---

Like I was just saying, the transmitting  
functions of the Gemstones

**[11:20]** ---

were discovered by accident  
while they were being researched.

**[11:24]** ---

In other words, we're only using  
the Gemstones to do broadcasts.

**[11:29]** ---

Huh? So then, are you saying that's not what the Gemstones were meant for?

**[11:36]** ---

Then what exactly *are* the Gemstones?

**[11:39]** ---

They're what's known as "dungeon cores."

**[11:42]** ---

Dungeon cores?

**[11:45]** ---

Dungeon cores.

**[11:48]** ---

They're said to be the most important things in supporting a dungeon.

**[11:54]** ---

As long as they're there, ferocious monsters will keep appearing.

**[12:00]** ---

If you destroy it or shut it down, the monsters stop appearing,

**[12:04]** ---

and the dungeon becomes abandoned.

**[12:07]** ---

Adventurers go out and explore dungeons,

**[12:11]** ---

but their ultimate objective is to shut down the dungeon core.

**[12:16]** ---

If they bring back a dungeon core,

**[12:19]** ---

they are able to earn a huge amount of wealth and honor from the nation.

**[12:23]** ---

Which means, all the things we call Gemstones now

**[12:27]** ---

are destroyed dungeon cores,

**[12:30]** ---

and we can only study them in their broken state right now.

**[12:37]** ---

Nobody yet has ever brought back a working dungeon core to the surface.

**[12:44]** ---

We can't have more monsters up here, can we?

**[12:47]** ---

Okay, maybe not, but wouldn't you like to study one that's working

**[12:52]** ---

to find out what they're supposed to be?

**[12:54]** ---

Can't you restart one?

**[12:57]** ---

It hasn't been possible so far.

We don't even know how they work.

**[13:04]** ---

The unknown is scary.

**[13:08]** ---

Which is why people use magic to explain everything.

**[13:12]** ---

What do you mean by that?

**[13:14]** ---

People are surprisingly reasonable creatures.

**[13:17]** ---

If we can't recognize something and give it an explanation, we fear it.

**[13:22]** ---

So we force explanations on things if we have to, to try to understand them.

**[13:26]** ---

I knew you'd know what I'm talking about!

**[13:29]** ---

I'm glad you understand me, King.

**[13:31]** ---

Hey, in the world I come from,

**[13:34]** ---

we had the pursuit of "science," which was a different natural law from magic.

**[13:39]** ---

Oh, yeah? I'd sure like to hear all about that sometime.

**[13:45]** ---

We of the House of Maxwell call this study of a separate natural law

**[13:49]** ---

"Over-science"

"over-science" for convenience sake.

**[13:52]** ---

"Over-science"

Over-science?

**[13:55]** ---

Which makes me an over-scientist.

**[13:59]** ---

Now then, I sure would like such  
a sure-to-be sympathizing king

**[14:03]** ---

to have a look at my inventions.

**[14:19]** ---

This is my latest invention!

**[14:23]** ---

The Little Susumu Mark V!

**[14:26]** ---

That name is lame.

**[14:28]** ---

You know how large-scale ships are  
propelled by wind power or sea dragons?

**[14:33]** ---

Well, the Little Susumu Mark V  
alone can propel a whole ship!

**[14:39]** ---

Oh, so it's a propulsion device.

**[14:42]** ---

Correct! This machine, you see,

**[14:45]** ---

sucks in whatever is in  
the space in front of the loop,

**[14:48]** ---

then shoots it out into  
the space behind it!

**[14:51]** ---

Hmm? If it sucks in what's  
in the space in front of it,

**[14:54]** ---

what happens if you use it  
the way it is right now?

**[14:57]** ---

Aren't you a sharp one? On land,  
it can suck in air, then shoot it out.

**[15:04]** ---

Shall we try an experiment?

**[15:06]** ---

Uh, Genia, just a minute!

**[15:34]** ---

Your Majesty! Princess!

**[15:36]** ---

Are you all right?!

**[15:37]** ---

More or less.

**[15:38]** ---

Still alive.

**[15:41]** ---

Sorry, sorry!

**[15:44]** ---

I had it pointing backwards.

**[15:46]** ---

Genia! What if something had happened to His Majesty?!

**[15:51]** ---

Now, now, we're fine. It's all right.

**[15:54]** ---

I have to say, Genia,  
this is an amazing invention!

**[15:57]** ---

Isn't it?

**[15:58]** ---

This loop part is a special metal that has a modified spell engraved in it

**[16:02]** ---

that allows it to channel energy.

**[16:06]** ---

And so, by feeding it energy,  
you get this Little Susumu Mark V,

**[16:10]** ---

a machine which takes in  
and expels magicium.

**[16:13]** ---

Just one of these can do  
the work of a giant sea dragon.

**[16:18]** ---

What's your source of power?  
It would have to be magic, right?

**[16:22]** ---

It has one of these installed in it.

**[16:26]** ---

Hmm?

**[16:27]** ---

Isn't that curse ore?

**[16:29]** ---

You know what it is, Liscia?

**[16:32]** ---

You know what? We use magic  
to mine ores, too.

**[16:36]** ---

But whenever this curse ore is nearby,

**[16:39]** ---

our magic stops working for some reason.

**[16:42]** ---

And if you try to force it to work...

**[16:45]** ---

Ka-boom!

**[16:46]** ---

It explodes? That sounds dangerous.

**[16:49]** ---

If you're digging through a mine  
and you run into this ore,

**[16:53]** ---

it means you can't mine anything more.

**[16:56]** ---

That's why it's called curse ore--  
stone that is divinely jinxed.

**[17:01]** ---

And unfortunately, there's a large vein  
of it running beneath the kingdom.

**[17:06]** ---

You shouldn't sound  
so ridiculous, Princess.

**[17:09]** ---

Huh?

**[17:10]** ---

On the contrary, one might say  
the fact that there's so much of this

**[17:14]** ---

buried beneath the kingdom shows  
that we are divinely blessed.

**[17:17]** ---

Curse ore doesn't prevent us  
from using magic.

**[17:21]** ---

Think about it for a minute. You can't  
use magic when near the ore,

**[17:25]** ---

and if you try to use it anyway,  
it explodes.

**[17:28]** ---

So then, where does the energy  
for that come from?

**[17:31]** ---

Hold on a minute! Are you saying  
that curse ore absorbs magic?

**[17:36]** ---

Impressive, King! That's right.

**[17:39]** ---

This ore absorbs the energy of magic.

**[17:43]** ---

When it exceeds its tolerance level,  
it releases that stored energy.

**[17:48]** ---

Explosively so, in fact.

**[17:51]** ---

I've succeeded in retrieving the magic  
energy absorbed by the curse ore.

**[17:58]** ---

And, I'm using it as the power  
source for this device.

**[18:02]** ---

You're what?

**[18:06]** ---

This is really serious. If it's true,  
it's like a rechargeable battery.

**[18:13]** ---

Genia has developed the  
technology to store energy

**[18:16]** ---

here in a world that doesn't  
even have the steam engine.

**[18:20]** ---

With this technology, the kingdom  
could make a giant leap forward.

**[18:28]** ---

However, once it gets out that  
the power source is a cursed stone,

**[18:33]** ---

it's bound to create religious  
friction in this world.

**[18:38]** ---

Moreover, according to Liscia,

**[18:40]** ---

there's a major vein of curse  
ore within the kingdom.

**[18:44]** ---

If we don't play this right, there  
could be a war over our resources.

**[18:50]** ---

In other words, not only  
could this technology

**[18:52]** ---

potentially make us the greatest  
power on the continent,

**[18:57]** ---

it is also potentially dangerous  
enough to destroy the country.

**[19:01]** ---

Souma, what's the matter?

**[19:03]** ---

Huh?

**[19:04]** ---

Oh, sorry. Imagining the high risk,  
high reward of this situation

**[19:08]** ---

has made me feel out of sorts.

**[19:14]** ---

Genia just became as critical  
to us as Tomoe is.

**[19:18]** ---

Huh?

**[19:19]** ---

I'll explain in detail later.  
More immediately,

**[19:22]** ---

what can we do to anchor  
Genia here in our country?

**[19:26]** ---

I think that her being a member of  
the House of Maxwell would be enough.

**[19:30]** ---

But if I had to say, she could  
marry someone that you trust,

**[19:34]** ---

and raise a family here.

**[19:36]** ---

Yeah, I guess. Do you think  
she has any feelings for Ludwin?

**[19:42]** ---

Speaking as a fellow woman,  
I'd give it a 60% chance.

**[19:46]** ---

You women are hard to understand.

**[19:49]** ---

Then, Souma, what's your take on Ludwin?

**[19:53]** ---

Oh, I'm 99% sure he likes her.  
Men are easy to read in that regard.

**[20:04]** ---

Ludwin, do you like Genia?

**[20:07]** ---

H-How can you ask me that

out of the blue, Your Majesty?!

**[20:10]** ---

Genia is a key figure for our kingdom.

**[20:13]** ---

So I want her to be married  
to someone I can trust.

**[20:18]** ---

You want me to be Lu's wife?

**[20:21]** ---

Genia, would you object  
to marrying Ludwin?

**[20:25]** ---

Mm-mm, I wouldn't.

**[20:28]** ---

I always thought that someday  
I would settle down with somebody.

**[20:33]** ---

I've also thought that you would be  
a pretty good person for that, Lu.

**[20:37]** ---

Huh?! B-But Your Majesty, that would mean  
the end of the Maxwell family line!

**[20:44]** ---

Then she can always go by "Maxwell-Arcs."

**[20:48]** ---

Ah, and you have my word, the royal  
family will pay for the whole wedding.

**[20:53]** ---

Are there any other issues to address?

**[20:56]** ---

Ludwin, get your nerve up.

**[20:59]** ---

R-Right!

**[21:02]** ---

Would you be my wife?

**[21:05]** ---

Are you sure you want me, Lu?  
I'm not exactly noblewoman material.

**[21:11]** ---

I know. Even so, I want you  
at my side from now on.

**[21:16]** ---

You sure have odd tastes.

**[21:18]** ---

But mm-hmm, okay. I look  
forward to being with you.

**[21:24]** ---

I trust that everyone is happy  
with this arrangement?

**[21:27]** ---

No, Your Majesty, not yet.

**[21:30]** ---

I got caught up by Genia's reaction,  
so I forgot to mention something.

**[21:34]** ---

She's the one who committed  
that scandalous act.

**[21:38]** ---

Oh yeah, that's right, huh? I was so  
excited by the new invention, I forgot.

**[21:43]** ---

Yes...

**[21:47]** ---

Ow!

**[21:49]** ---

Lu, I won't have any domestic violence  
so early in our engagement.

**[21:53]** ---

You idiot! Look, you and I are going  
to apologize to His Majesty together!

**[21:59]** ---

I apologize for what my... fiancée...

**[22:03]** ---

...has done. There can be no excuse.

**[22:04]** ---

Hey, you're hurting me, Lu!

**[22:07]** ---

Uh-huh. So, what is it that she did?

**[22:11]** ---

She stole dragon bones.

**[22:16]** ---

Ow...

**[22:29]** ---

*"What are we supposed to choose?"*

**[22:33]** ---

*Our voices imploring the future are hoarse*

**[22:38]** ---

*We've become so afraid  
of what we could lose*

**[22:44]** ---

*that we're just frozen in place*

**[22:49]** ---

*How many times have we made mistakes*

**[22:53]** ---

*because we wanted to check our "answers"?*

**[22:59]** ---

*Before we knew it we were in love,  
we had fallen in love*

**[23:07]** ---

*I'll hold fast to you  
in the times we're in*

**[23:11]** ---

*We who set alight  
our finite lives to fight*

**[23:17]** ---

*are noble and beautiful above all*

**[23:22]** ---

*As long as we create  
as many bright tomorrows*

**[23:26]** ---

*as the indelible wounds we suffer,*

**[23:31]** ---

*we can be proud of all  
we've woven together*

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Revision #1

Created 2024-03-17 01:42:52 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2024-03-17 01:42:53 UTC by whimsee