

Yes, I do. I like you, what's wrong with that?

Hey, wait! What am I supposed to do now that you said that?

You decide what you want to do!

"..... is"

(alt: "..... Huh.....") Tomomi Saikei rolled over on her bed and sighed deeply at the series of scenes in her mind.

On the spur of the turn, the arms are lifted up and placed in front of the face to cover the eyelids.

The curtains blocked out the morning light, but did not clear my mood.

How many days have passed since then? Two weeks should have passed by now, and yet, the scene I saw at that time remains vivid and not a bit faded from my memory.

It's a luxury to begrudge myself the luxury of having a good memory, but these recollections were so bad for my mental health that I wanted to grumble about them.

I have low blood pressure, but for the past few days I have been waking up before my alarm clock goes off, so I understand how much it has affected my real life.

I had a hard time falling asleep in class because I didn't get enough sleep, and I had a hard time thinking straight during after-school social time, making several mistakes in answering questions and choosing topics of conversation.

Both this and that are due to "Autumn Sunshine, and Ms. Selnia or"

I think of the two people I will see in the same class a few hours from now.

Tomomi has definitely talked to and spent the most time with them over the past year.

So we can see things that others might not notice, and we notice changes, even if they are minor.

There is no indication that they started dating after that confessional stuff.

In fact, they were so aware of each other that they didn't even have a decent conversation.

In particular, Selnia seems to be blatantly avoiding the autumn weather, and her usual cheerful mood has completely faded away, to the point that her classmates are becoming concerned.

I mean, there's still a chance to make up for it. "Say, but hey, what are we going to do, huh"?

Tomomi sighed several times and turned over and pressed her face against the pillow.

If this were just a competition, I wouldn't hesitate.

Winning or losing, it is my way of having fun at all costs, and my usual pattern is to try to win as much as possible in the process.

..... But this is a different story.

For example, if I were to confess, the relationship would not be the same as it has been in the past, and I would have to say, "I win."

That is, "to be in a relationship.

This leads to the following conclusion.

I like Akiharu, but when it comes to whether or not I want to be in a relationship with him, I'm a bit skeptical.

Last year, at the Christmas Eve Ball, I was able to confirm my feelings to a certain extent, but that did not change.

But when I think of Akiharu going out with someone, especially Selnia, I can't help but feel at ease.

In the end, Tomomi couldn't make up her mind to move forward even though she had to wait and see how things would turn out.

..... Oh, God. I was gonna decide what to do by tomorrow.

(alt: "... Ah, well. I was planning to decide what to do by tomorrow...") Just as I was about to blurt this out, the alarm clock began to chime at a very loud volume, indicating that it was time to get up.

Tomomi wakes up with a start and sets off the alarm, but as she does so, she sees a calendar hanging on the wall at the edge of her vision.

Although I don't have a schedule, holidays and events are marked from the beginning, so tomorrow is a weekday.

However, it is in pink, with a heart symbol, to be polite: "Valentine's Day.

The first time I saw the article, I was surprised.

In the case of a normal high school, the third-year students are free to attend school in February, Hino had heard.

As I recall, it was in junior high school. One of my classmates, who was sitting next to me, said, "My brother, a senior high school student, was playing late at night because he didn't have school... it was so annoying."

I think that's where I got the idea for the story.

After the university entrance examinations are over, students can use the rest of the year as a break from school, but at Hakuryo, third-year students normally attend school and take classes.

Well, it seems that most of the students go straight to university through the escalator system, and since the school has a laid-back atmosphere, it may not be necessary for students to refresh themselves any more.

..... Although she was convinced, there was one reality in front of her that she could not fully accept, and Akiharu looked at it intently.

The person in question immediately notices your gaze and places the teacup in his or her hand on the plate.

What? Is there something on my face?"

Akiharu nodded his head while feeling extremely disappointed because he heard a common phrase that he had heard in some TV drama.

"....., you know, the cream on the bridge of your nose."

(alt: "... Um, there's cream on the tip of my nose.") I didn't even notice it. Somebody must be playing a trick on us.

I can't say that this is a regular blunder on your part.

Although they are guests of each other, they are the most senior students.

It is a little difficult for me to be aggressive with someone who is bursting with naturalness, even if he is trying to be funny.

Shikikagami Saori, wiping her cream with one of the paper napkins that are available at every table in the cafeteria, looks at me with narrowed eyes and a smile on her face that makes me wonder if we are even the same species.

We were lucky to catch Mr. Hino at the right moment. We didn't have an appointment, and I often don't know where she is after school.

Well, yes, but if you text me at, I can reach you after I get back to the dorms, okay?"

In theory, yes, but isn't the world complicated?

After taking a pause, which she was too kind to make so thoughtful, Saori tightened her expression slightly and said, "Actually, all of my registered addresses disappeared the other day.

"Oh, you said it disappeared. Why?"

It asked me if I wanted to say 'yes' or 'no,' and when I chose 'yes,' it disappeared."

That's definitely your operational error! If you had destroyed it by submerging it in water or lost your cell phone, that's one thing, but to accidentally erase it is too hard!"

For reasons that were even more absurd than he had expected, Akiharu unintentionally butted in with all his might.

No, this person is out of standard.

It sounds meaningful, but I knew it was probably not for a good reason, but the destructive power is just too much.

Holding back a sigh with all the patience he could muster, Akiharu felt suffocated by his excitement, so he slipped his fingers under the neck of his shirt and opened it, asking, "What is it that you want at"?

Saori-san put her hands on her ample, high-school-class breasts over her uniform in a graceful gesture and asked, "You know what day it is tomorrow, don't you?"

Well, well, well. "Well, you mean Valentine's Day, don't you?"

Mentioning an event that he has heard so much about over the past few days, Akiharu's brow wrinkles up.

It's not because I don't have good memories of Valentine's Day, but because I keep thinking about the way Todoroki has been appealing to the crowds lately.

That pseudo-Kansai idiot, who has no boundaries between the upper and lower education departments, is so determined to help the female students more than necessary that he wants to put himself in the shoes of those of us who follow him on by slipping away with all his might.

Well, Sanke had the hardest time.

If I approach the ladies in the upper school education department, even a friendly smile can lead to a secondary disaster.

I mainly bow down to the girls in the obedience department and say, "You don't have discipline.

I was told that I had to be a "good person.

..... No, well, even if we exclude that, I don't have that many good memories of Valentine's Day.

Of course, I have never received any real-life chocolates.

There was no reason to smile, and Akiharu waited for the senior student who asked him a question to respond with a bitter expression on his face, as if he had found mold in the corner of the kitchen.

Saori-san, who has gouged out my wounds, old and new, does not seem to share my pain at all, and she looks at me with a carefree expression.

Yes, it is. I wanted to send some chocolates to Ms. Hino, but unfortunately, I have to leave Hakuryo tomorrow and the day after tomorrow for a photo shoot.

I think it's great that your work is going well, but is that why you're doing this?"

Yes. I wanted to send Ms. Hino chocolates as a token of my appreciation for all she does for me. I am not a good cook, so I could only prepare store-bought chocolates instead of homemade ones.

(alt: "That's right. I thought I'd give Mr. Hino some chocolate as a way of thanking him. I'm not good at cooking, so I could only prepare commercially available chocolates instead of making them by hand, but...") When Saori-san said that apologetically, Akiharu felt a warm feeling spreading in his chest.

I had the impression that the sisters were all on their own and didn't pay attention to the usual customs, but I had no idea that they had prepared chocolates for me.

I am grateful, and to receive Valentine's Day chocolates from such a beautiful woman, it would be insane for a man not to be pleased.

Akiharu was so excited about this momentous day in her life that she put her hands on the table and said, "I won't say anything extravagant about making something by hand! I don't care if it's a store-bought one or a ten-yen one from the convenience store, just the fact that you went to the trouble of preparing it for me is enough to make me happy!"

"Well,, is that right?"

Yes, that's right. I think every man, not just me, would say that.

If so, I am very sorry that I can not give you chocolates.

The words were muttered in a calm tone of voice, and Akiharu stopped thinking for a while and then he finally understood what was being said, and the smile that had been on his face hung back.

"Huh, huh? Why instead of"

I tasted the gift because I thought it would be better if the person giving the gift did not know what it tasted like. I bought two boxes just in case, so I opened one of them."

"So why"

"I even served them to Sanae, who happened to be playing with them while we were tasting them, and found that she had eaten both boxes.

(alt: "I treated Sanae-san, who happened to visit me during the tasting, but before I knew it, she had already eaten both boxes...") Saori-san says that she would like to talk about even a tragic accident, but no matter how you look at it, it was a self-inflicted accident.

It's like you went to run into a wall on your own.

As Akiharu looked on in shock and dismay, the most senior student, who had left her hand on the table, grabbed it and said, "I know this may sound strange for me to say, but please don't be angry with Sanae-san.

"Oh, no, I'm not accusing you of anything.

(alt: "Ah... no, I didn't really want to blame you...") She was the one who ate the last one that was left after Sanae suggested, "Would you like to eat one of them? Sanae was the one who ate the last one that was left, but she didn't know anything about it. Therefore, she should only be half responsible.

No, it's not even half, it's almost like Shiki is not responsible, right?

It sounds like a lot of responsibility to be the last one, but Saori was the one who ate all the food.

Although it was not stated explicitly, when Shikikagami came to the room, she had already consumed almost all of the chocolates that were naturally given as gifts.

He is not the kind of person who would pass the responsibility on to others, but the fact that he naturally split the responsibility 50-50 is something that should not be underestimated.

I know there is supposed to be a lot of sisterly love, but I wonder what kind of thought process goes into it.

Surprise and dismay somewhat lessened the shock of not receiving chocolates.
However, there was a reaction to the joy I felt, and I was still depressed.

(alt: Surprise and disgust, the shock of not being able to get the chocolate faded a little...although, as expected, there was also a backlash from being happy, and I was depressed.

) As Akiharu hung helplessly, his hand was suddenly yanked from hers.

I was so surprised that he turned his palm upward and said, "I don't mean to be rude, but instead of chocolate, I'm going to give you this.

The little candies in their colorful wrappers were placed in his hands.

Saori explained in an unnecessarily sexy voice to Akiharu, who was staring at a karaoke machine that looked like it might have been placed next to the reception desk.

I received this during a photo shoot the other day. It's the only candy I could get my hands on quickly.

(alt: "I got it when I was filming the other day. This is the only candy I can get right away...")
..... no you don't have to go that far to give me"

To be honest, it's not like I want them at all costs, so I can only have a subtle reaction when I receive candies or other gifts.

If it wasn't Saori-san, I'd think she was making fun of me.

While Akiharu was thankful for the feelings, but could not raise her spirits, Saori smiled softly like a spring field and asked, "Would it have been better if I had responded with something physical rather than something sweet?"

No, why are you going to such extremes? How much are you willing to sell yourself short in exchange for some obligatory chocolates?

But if you take into account the size of your body and convert it to high-end chocolates, it's a fair amount, so it's not very cheap, is it?"

That's not where the specifics come in!

Oh my,"

I felt like telling him that we are the ones who are really in trouble.

I would like to be a quiet underclassman, but this person won't let me.

I'm tired of being interrupted, and at the end of the day, they react as if I'm wrong.

Holding back the urge to say "Oh dear," Akiharu put the candy in his hand into his pocket and said, "I couldn't give you much, but I heard that Sanae-san is going to do her best in exchange for you.

What?" What is that guy from Shikikagami doing?

Today, you are making sweets with the students of the Education Department.

I'm going to go to and see if I can find it. Oh, no, that's too."

Recently, I recall a group of girls talking about something after class.

They were all excited about making cakes or cookies, but it was all about Valentine's Day, wasn't it?

I had expected this, since there was an atmosphere of no boys allowed.

However, I don't think Shikikagami is going to be a force to be reckoned with. But that's the point, isn't it, that it's worthwhile for everyone to do something together?

As Akiharu nodded to herself, Saori glanced down at the wristwatch on her right wrist and said, "Well then, I am about to leave, so I will leave you now.

Oh, yes. Be careful on the way.

Saori-san left her seat without making a sound and politely bowed to us as she walked out of the diner.

I thought I would follow suit, but when I saw that there was still half a cup of milk tea left in the cup, Akiharu dropped his seat that he had almost floated on.

Even if I went back to the dormitory right now, I would be smothered by all the girls who are busy making snacks and sent to my room, and I would not be able to relax in the lobby.

If that's the case, I might as well kill some time and go home.

As I absentmindedly watched the female student in charge of the area deftly put away Saori's tea set, I couldn't help but think about one of my classmates.

(alt: That's what I thought, and as I stared absent-mindedly at a female preschool student in the area I was in charge of neatly putting away the tea set that Saori-san was using... I couldn't help but think about a certain classmate.) Perhaps it's because I've been fretting over the same partner for so long now that I naturally sigh.

..... It's been two weeks already, isn't it?

It has been almost half a month since Selnia confessed to me that she had been in love with me since my January obedience test.

After that long, it would be normal for something to happen, but in reality, no progress was being made.

The day after the confession, which was thrown out without warning, Selnia was clearly avoiding us, so it should not be surprising.

They don't make eye contact, they don't come close to me, and if I dare to approach them, they glare at me and threaten me.

I don't think even the best hunters would be able to make contact with it.

Because of this, Akiharu was not able to organize his feelings, and he had not decided on a response to his confession.

..... or "like"

I feel like I've been told, "I hate you," but at the same time, "I hate you."

I feel like I was also told to go to and there was no request for a relationship, and I was told to go my own way.

What do you want me to do with this?

Thanks to this, I have had my hands full just trying to keep up with my classes, and have not been able to put much effort into training or self-study.

Since they ignored me so spectacularly today, I knew that there was no way I could get chocolates for tomorrow's Valentine's Day.

..... What does it really mean when a guy supposedly confesses his feelings for you and you don't get it? "I don't know, it shouldn't be like this forever, so I think I need to start thinking about it a little bit.

Muttering, Akiharu plopped down on the table as if crushed by a heavy feeling.

I think it's bad manners, but I'm not in the mood to worry about such things right now.

Think with your forehead resting against the pillow on your outstretched arm, being careful not to hit the teacup.

I have thought about this many times before today and have not been able to come up with an answer, but I cannot leave it unanswered.

I was wondering what you think about Selnia.

I was aware that she was one of my closest female friends, but honestly, I didn't think much more than that.

She's beautiful, so seeing her up close and touching her is exciting, she's fun to be with, and if she had been a normal high school student, she'd have been more interested in what was going to happen next.

I think they were filled with excitement imagining what it would be like to live in the future.

In reality, however, I was taking hard classes in the education department at Hakurei Ling, and although I could take a break now and then, I basically had no time to spare, so the idea of having a girlfriend never crossed my mind.

I finally started thinking about it after he confessed to me. This is a difficult problem.
(alt: After being confessed, I finally started to think about it... but this is a difficult question.)
Like."

or "I don't like it."

I can't imagine being in a relationship with a person I should like, but I can't imagine being in a relationship with a person I don't like.

At least tell me if you want a relationship or not.

If you had asked me, I might have been able to squeeze an answer out of you, but I can't. That excuse is almost too good to hear.

Akiharu scratched the back of his head while keeping his face down, vehemently regretting that he had made such an unmanly mistake.

I know I have to come up with some kind of answer soon, but I feel like gnashing my teeth and wondering why I can't seem to get it to boil over. "Oh,Autumn, sunny?

"....., hmm?"

When someone calls my name in a somewhat puzzled voice, I try to lean my heavy head back.

Then, on my right side, I saw Tomomi who was about to cross the street but stopped with her face turned toward me, somehow looking uncomfortable.

While wondering how he would react to his childhood friend, Akiharu slowly got up and asked, "Who are you meeting at the diner at this hour?"

It's not like that, but I thought I'd spend some time outside of my room for a change.
(alt: "It's not like that, but... I thought I'd spend some time outside my room for a change...")
Hmmm?"

Tomomi looked down at the table and said, "What's wrong with you, Akiharu? Were you with someone?"

Oh." Shikikagami's sister, Saori-san.

That's a very rare combination. If you think it's oddly unpopular, maybe that's why.

I was about to say, "You're overreacting," but Akiharu kept his mouth shut.

Tomomi's comment was a bit unacceptable, but in fact, the cafeteria was deserted.

Moreover, although Tomomi, who just arrived, may not know it, more than half of the customers who used to be there when she arrived have disappeared.

Although it may not have anything to do with the fact that he was with Saori, Akiharu is well aware that many upper secondary students leave as if they were running away when he is present, so refuting him will only serve to make him feel empty.

With a delicate feeling of whether it was good or bad that she had given up on this kind of thing so quickly, Akiharu looked at Tomomi and asked, "If you're free, let's talk for a while, shall we? It's still too early to go back to the dormitory, and the library isn't open right now, if you want to kill some time.

"Not available because, oh, there's a middle school student there?"

Tomomi, who recognized it immediately, nodded her head without saying a word.

A poem to the graduating seniors at the high school.

I heard that there is an event called "The Poetry Festival," and that people are working hard to write poems at the library, referring to poetry books from all ages and cultures.

The deadline is early next week, and I heard that third graders are coming to the library every day.

I remembered because Pina had complained about it a few days ago.

The reason she complained was not because she couldn't come up with a poem, but because while everyone else was working in groups, exchanging ideas, Pina, who had no friends in the middle school, was on her own.

She said, "I'm a solitary poet!"

I can't forget it even if I wanted to, because it was even more painful when he said, "I'll never forget.

Just as Akiharu was starting to feel sad, he saw Tomomi, who had her hand over her mouth, shaking her head as if she was pondering something.

"I'll give you a chance to kill some time. I have some thoughts on the matter myself."

After muttering something suggestive like a black-hearted person, he sat down on the chair where Saori had been sitting until a few minutes ago.

Tomomi looked over the menu and asked for a cup of Dimbula milk tea.

Akiharu silently watches until the classmate in the maid's outfit who received her order goes down, and is somewhat nervous about the situation of talking with Tomomi in front of her.

I thought it was strange that I should be dealing with someone I was familiar with, but I soon found the answer to my question:

Well, it's been a while since I've talked to you, hasn't it?"

..... so?" I'm sure I say hi to you every time I see you in class, right?"

"Well, I'm sure I'm saying hello, but"

(alt: "Yeah, I'm sure you're greeting me, but...") It seems to me that in the past, the conversation did not end with a simple greeting, but instead developed into some sort of conversation, such as a random chat or a question about plans for the day.

When we were at the cafeteria or cafeteria terrace for service activities, they would come and play with us in their spare time.

But recently, we have only exchanged a few words, and you should not have seen me during the service activities.

I should have realized earlier that we had not had a proper conversation at all, but now I finally remember that I was not aware of it. I thought I should have noticed it earlier, but now that I'm here, it finally occurred to me: "Unlike me, you and Selnia haven't even said hello to each other.

Ugh."

When Tomomi told her what she had been thinking at the perfect moment, Akiharu was at a loss for words.

I wonder if this guy is actually an esper, and if he can read our minds. No, if he can use supernatural power, I'll just accept it, but if he doesn't have that kind of special ability, it's even more astonishing that he can do something like that.

The first time in a long time that I've had a decent conversation with someone, I was suddenly startled by this childhood friend, and I looked at him while realizing once again that he was a scary guy. Suddenly, Akiharu felt a sense of discomfort.

(alt: Looking at his childhood friend, who suddenly made him freak out with a decent conversation he hadn't seen in a long time, he once again recognized that he was a scary guy... Suddenly, Akiharu felt something was wrong.) I thought she was making her usual superior smile with a hint of meanness, but she was strangely unflattering.

It is not unlike a black-hearted person who loves to push people down with just the right amount of force to avoid injury.

Hey, are you not feeling well?"

When Akiharu asked this question, Tomomi's mouth twisted like when she took a bite of new ice cream and the taste was far from what she expected, "..... Actually, hey, you know. Lately, I haven't been able to sleep."

"Ah, so that's why you didn't talk much with the others in class or during recess."

Yes, but did you see?"

I've been watching you, you and Selnia, and the atmosphere in the classroom is always different when you're quiet. Anyone would have noticed.

When two people who are usually the center of the conversation are both silent and absent, it creates a strange atmosphere in the class.

The upper-class ladies seemed to sense this and engaged in quiet conversation without touching, while the girls in the obedience department seemed somewhat uncomfortable.

Tomomi's surprising look at me was so disconcerting to Akiharu that he felt it was the opposite of what he expected.

"What's the matter with you? If it's okay with me, I'll talk to you.

"..... I never thought I would be told such a thing by Akiharu, who had a face of obvious distress.

(alt: "... I didn't expect Akiharu, who was obviously looking worried, to say such a thing...") Tomomi sighs in a somewhat depressed manner, as if it was really unexpected.

How low was my reputation if I took that much damage?

Or was she showing that she was just as distressed from their point of view as I was when I looked at Tomomi?

While Akiharu was thinking with mixed feelings about which was the right answer, the student in charge of the area of education brought the milk tea that she had ordered.

Tomomi says, "Thank you," as she finishes pouring in front of him.

The maid-clad classmate smiled slightly and walked away.

I really need to learn from this area's sociability.

If you can't be at least sociable, it could be a matter of life and death for you in the future.

As Akiharu looked on with admiration, Tomomi took a sip of the milk tea and put it back in the saucer, and said, "Well, I'll ask you for your advice

"Oh, you're ready for it. Well, I don't know how much use it will be.

(alt: "Oh, did you feel like it? Well, I don't know how useful it will be.") Don't worry, I didn't expect much from you to begin with. I just felt like talking to her, and that's the main reason.

..... When you say it so clearly, I feel a little hurt, even though I know how much you know yourself.

Even if the fact that Tomomi, who is known for being an honor student, is unsparing in her teeth is proof of her trustworthiness, I am still depressed.

While Akiharu's tension was decreasing, his childhood friend, the black-hearted one, slightly smiled and said, "Hey, I received a consultation. A girl friend of mine asked me about the person she likes.

"Hmm, hmm? Is that really something I should be hearing?"

Of course. Besides, Akiharu wouldn't tell anyone, right?

Yeah, well...

You don't have to worry about it. It's fine.

Akiharu folds his arms in understanding.

I still have a lingering feeling that maybe it's okay, but if Tomomi says so, then it must be okay.

I have had my past memories exposed several times, but I am not the type of person who talks about other people's secrets lightly.

..... Although she was even less excited, Akiharu tried his best not to show it in his expression and asked her to hurry up and get on with the conversation.

"So, your friend asked you for relationship advice?"

I wonder if that's going to happen. I heard there's someone she likes, but I heard she saw him confess to her.

(alt: "I wonder if it will happen... It seems that there is someone you like, but it seems that you saw the scene where that person confessed."), that's another shocker.

(alt: "... that's also... shocking.") Although her voice became somewhat hoarse, Akiharu managed to reply.

No, my heart is already beating so loudly that it's making noise.

We know why, of course.

Tomomi's story about her friend

I am not sure what to make of this, because the same thing happened to me a few weeks ago.

(alt: Something similar happened to me a few weeks ago.) In my case, I wasn't the one who saw it, I was the one who confessed. No, wait, "only".

(alt: In my case, I wasn't the one who saw it, I was just confessed... No wait, "only") Is it a little strange to say that?

It would be a big surprise, something that may happen only a few times in a person's life.

In any case, although a little time has passed, it was an event that will almost certainly rank among the top three most impactful events in the entire high school career, including the future.

The shock still lingers in my mind, and I think that is why I reacted so sensitively to the confession of someone who should have had nothing to do with me.

I tried to act calm, but I was worried that my childhood friend, who has a keen sense of perception, might notice that I was upset, but Tomomi did not look straight at me, but rather slightly removed her gaze.

While Akiharu was relieved to hear that they had not noticed him, a melancholy voice was heard.

Yes, I heard she was shocked as well. She was so shocked that she couldn't do anything for a while, but as time passed and she regained her sense of normalcy, she realized what had happened.

"You noticed for what?"

He told me that he was supposed to confess his feelings for her, but it seems they're not together.

"Hey, what do you think of the girl who confessed to you in terms of her appearance?"

I don't know about that. What does it matter?

She looked at me and made me feel a little uncomfortable, but Akiharu nodded his head and said, "Because, you know, being confessed to is something that makes you happy, isn't it? Unless she's not really attracted to him, I think she's going to be willing to go out with him anyway.

"Hmmm... Akiharu is choosing whether or not to go out with you based on your looks?"

"No, so you're not talking in general?"

It's funny, I'm supposed to be consulting with them, but for some reason I feel like I'm being blamed.

Why should they look at me like I am a bottom-feeder just because I gave them an obvious answer?

That's what I want to say. If the girl who confessed her feelings to me and the guy she likes are not in a relationship, then Tomomi's friend who asked me about it still has a chance, right? What's gotten into you?

"In theory, yes, but you know,"

Tomomi narrowed her eyes tiredly and said, "My friend says that from what she saw from the side, the two of them seemed to be on good terms. It's a wonder why they didn't get together. On the other hand, my friend, despite witnessing such a scene, is having a hard time making up her mind.

(alt: When I said that, Tomomi narrowed her eyes tiredly and said, "... My friend said that from the sidelines, the two of them seemed to get along very well. I wondered why they didn't get along. On the other hand, even though my friend had witnessed such a scene, he still couldn't make up his mind... Huh...") Tomomi sighs heavily for some reason and holds a tea cup in her hand, but instead of drinking it, she keeps her gaze down.

It's too strange to just say, "It doesn't seem right," but I'm not sure if it's okay to ask a deeper question.

(alt: It doesn't seem right to just say that it doesn't look like you, but I wonder if it's okay to dig deeper and ask.) I am not comfortable with being asked to explain because the conversation is off-topic and I just have a feeling that this is so.

When Akiharu was hesitating, Tomomi turned her melancholy eyes toward him and asked, "What do you think about the reason why the other party doesn't accept your confession, hey?"

I'm not quite sure what you think of 's situation.

I don't care if you supplement it with your imagination. I'm assuming that you have a good friend who confesses her feelings for you, and you don't have anyone you're dating, and yet you can't accept it. What kind of reason would you give?

I was asked another difficult question.

I could understand the preconditions, but even so, I think the area to be compensated by imagination is too wide.

We don't know their faces, their personalities, what kind of relationship they had, or the circumstances under which they confessed.

It would be absurd to ask them to imagine something like this.

..... And yet, even vaguely, the face of someone she knew well popped up in Akiharu's mind: "The one who confessed.

The reason for this is that there was an event associated with the common denominator of

However, in my case, there was nothing sexy or moving about the scene, so if you ask me if it is a useful reference, I would have to say that it is pretty subtle.

But if I had to answer, I'd say, "I'd say there's someone else I like, or I'm not interested in going out with anyone else."

"I think the only other thing that would be interesting is if had a reasonable opinion."

Who told you to hold a comedy contest? It's not like he's asking me to do a big comedy show.

Or that he confessed to you but didn't ask you to go out with him.

"Confession." And? How is that even possible?"

I can't say that this is an actual event, but it is surprisingly true.

Well, if it had not happened to me, I think Akiharu would have asked the same question.

That's how unbelievable the confession was.

Remembering the feeling of that time when he was hit unexpectedly and hit and run so hard, Akiharu wrinkled his brow while tracing his finger over the safety pin in his right ear that was used as a piercing, "That's not necessarily the case. It's not impossible to confess on the spur of the moment, but because you didn't have a plan, you didn't think ahead and ended up in trouble"

Hmmm... Well, it might be a possibility.

(alt: "Hmm... well, maybe there is a possibility.") Tomomi agreed, although she remained somewhat unconvinced.

Akiharu breathed out a sigh of relief without expressing it.

Good, maybe we won't be subjected to any more strange pursuits.

Although I was only supposed to be asked for my opinion, I felt as if I was being dragged through the mud because of the content, and it was mentally damaging if it went on too long.

I looked into the face of my childhood friend who was sitting across from me, praying that she would not ask me any more strange questions.

"Yeah? Do you ever do something on the spur of the moment that you regret so much that you want to die later?"

But still, yes. In my case, before I let go of the current and my emotions, my reason always brakes down. Once you stop, it takes a lot of courage to go on.

"Oh, is that what is for?"

For example, you can stand on the diving board and jump right off, but if you were told to go to the very end of the board, look down, and then jump, you would be too scared to take the plunge, wouldn't you? It's just like that."

When I was told this, I could imagine it quite realistically.

It is true that once you get stuck in a situation like this, it is very difficult to recover.

If they are not careful, they may even run backwards up the stairs before being able to fly.

Well, it may not happen that often, but I understand the psychological backsliding.

..... I understand, though.

"The problem is your friend who asked me for advice, right? What are you going to do about it?"

The tone of the conversation became a bit like an interrogation, but since this is a point that cannot be left out of the conversation, Akiharu pulls his chin back and looks at Tomomi.

You said you couldn't make up your mind. What do you want to do about your friend? Do you think the status quo is good enough for you?"

He doesn't think it's a good idea. But she said she was hesitant to confess her feelings to him. (alt: "I don't think it's a good thing, apparently. But I'm hesitant to say, 'Then I have to confess, too.'") I understand how you're feeling, but even if you're okay right now, you don't know what's going to happen if you keep waiting, do you?"

If he asked you for an immediate response after your confession, then I'm sure you've already settled the matter, but I'd like you to think it over and give me your answer.

(alt: If you said that you were asked for an answer immediately after confessing, it would have already been settled, but "Please think carefully and give me an answer.") If you are told something like this, there is a possibility that bad things will happen in the future.

Well, there is a possibility that after careful consideration, they may decline, but to wait and hope for the best is a bad move.

Since she knows what she's talking about, it's only natural that her childhood friend in front of her should know what she's talking about,..... Akiharu looked at Tomomi's face intently.

Tomomi looked away awkwardly when our eyes met and said, "I told you, didn't I? If you could only act on logic, you wouldn't be consulting anyone else.

Well, I understand that, but

I think it's shortsighted to say that because someone else confessed to you, you should confess to them too, but I don't think it's a bad thing. But that's what you do on the spur of the moment, and to do it days later at would require a great deal of enthusiasm and determination, wouldn't it?

Uh,"

And another important thing to remember is that you may like something, but you may not be willing to move on from it.

Hearing his words, Akiharu folded his arms with his lips tied.

The other day, Daichi gave me a similar advice, but I think it's a little different from that.

Daichi was having a hard time because he couldn't estimate how much he was feeling and it was difficult for him to confess his feelings because he had his own reasons. Tomomi's friend didn't seem to have any desire to go out with her in the first place.

(alt: In Daichi's case, I couldn't fathom how much I was feeling, and it seemed like there was a reason for it, so it was difficult to confess, so I was worried... but in the case of Tomomi's friend, I didn't really want to date him in the first place. It sounded like) Akiharu I don't understand it myself, but I somehow know that there are people who have that kind of feeling.

That's it, "I like you and I enjoy our relationship, but I can't marry you.

It's similar to the fact that there are couples who are like

However, even though I understand that it is unnecessary, I still have something to say.

So Akiharu leans over the table and says, "I know what you're thinking,, but you're still wondering, right? You seem to have your own answer, but..."

Tomomi nodded her head doubtfully in response to our question.

I don't know if you have any idea what I'm trying to say, but what I want to say is simple.

(alt: You may not know what I'm trying to say, but what I'm trying to say is simple.) The following one word should convey 80% of the message.

If left alone, the person you love will probably go out with someone else."

I don't know. I don't know if I'll accept your confession or not."

(alt: "... But you don't know? Whether or not you'll accept the confession.") Even if I had refused to confess that I had witnessed the event. I'm sure you'll go out with someone else someday."

(alt: "Even if you refuse to confess that you witnessed it, you're going to date someone else someday.") While saying this, we could see a hint of bitterness in Tomomi's expression.

He is a very perceptive guy, so it seems he got the message.

Still, Akiharu continued to show his intention.

If my friend can keep his stance that he likes me but has no intention of going out with me, then I don't mind. But if the guy you like starts going out with another girl, what is he going to do?"

"What do you do with"?"

Isn't it hard to see them together? Even if you try to make a move when the time comes, it's unlikely to work if you say, 'Break up and go out with me.' If you still don't want to go out with her and are only uncomfortable, it will be more trouble than it's worth."

If that's the case, it's better to confess after the fact.

Because, "Break up with that woman. But I'm not interested in going out with you."

There is no one who would nod his head when told to do so.

Normally, I would never have said anything like that, but with, you have two terrible choices: keep quiet and watch, or try not to watch at all.

If you don't like her much, or if she's very dry, it's probably okay, but if you're worried enough to talk to a friend about it, I get the feeling that she's not a person who can be easily dismissed.

Then, I think you will still have to suffer.

I have never experienced it in real life, but just imagining it is quite mentally intense.

I don't know what kind of intention your friend had in consulting with you, but I don't agree with maintaining the status quo. I know it's hard when you can't move at your own time, but if you don't do anything about it, I think you'll be left with a lot of regret.

(alt: "I don't know what the friend was thinking when he came to talk to me, but I don't agree with maintaining the status quo. It must be hard not being able to move at my own pace, but that's why I won't do anything." If you do, I think you'll end up regretting it.") "..... Sure, sure, sure."

(alt: "... Certainly, yes.") Well, it's not up to me to say. It's a difficult problem.

Akiharu mutters, "It's a delicate problem," and also has another meaning.

I know it's not right as it is, and neither is I.

You have not taken any action even though he confessed to you and you can't even clearly grasp your own feelings, so you really are not in a position to talk about others.

But Selnia says, "I'm going to make up for this."

"I'll be waiting for you with my head held high, but you have to stay."

It was hard to believe that she was saying this after her confession.

So far, no action has been taken, but I don't think the short-tempered driller will put it off for a month or two.

If they haven't changed their minds, they should try something new by the end of this month at the latest.

By then, I should be able to reply properly.

Today and tomorrow.

There is a possibility that the "Mere Old Man" may come, but if that happens, we will have to be prepared for it

In many ways.

Akiharu, who had been preoccupied with his own problems, heard a strangely heavy murmur in his ear.

It's hard to but we can't leave it at that.

If my friends have created a problem, then so be it. "If it's bothering your friends, you should probably tell them, even if it bothers you a little."

Yes, right. I think you know that it's not right as it is. Sometimes it takes a push from someone else to finally get them to move on.

You don't look very happy to be called, do you?"

I was curious about his somber expression, which didn't match his convincing lines, so I asked him about it.

The cafeteria is a sparse place, but there are still a few students there, and some of the students in the education department are doing service work.

It should be strange not to be concerned that Tomomi is showing her troubled side in such a public place, taking off the mask of an honor student.

While Akiharu was thinking about this, Tomomi let out a deep sigh and said, "..... I guess I know it in my head, but my feelings haven't caught up with it. Or maybe I just don't have enough energy."

(alt: While Akiharu was thinking that, Tomomi let out a deep sigh and said, "... I know it in my head, but my heart isn't keeping up... Or maybe I just don't have enough energy. mosquito....."

) I heard another strange comment.

In a sense, this is more surprising than the failure to play the role of a masked honor student.

It's as if it were snowing in spring that Tomomi would say something so weak.

That's why Akiharu was muttering unintentionally.

Wow,, that's kind of unusual."

What? I have problems sometimes, and I think about them so much that I can't sleep.

I don't mean that. I mean that you don't look like you."

Tomomi's eyes became even more glazed over when I made lighthearted excuses for her displeasure.

Yeah, definitely a failed excuse.

Since he had not yet said everything, Akiharu slowly opened his mouth while reaching for the safety pin.

Tomomi is smart, but she always puts her emotions first, doesn't she? She always puts profit and high chances of winning above everything else."

I guess so.

I said, "It's rare to see a person so lost in thought that they can't move. I think it's like Tomomi to do what she wants to do, to choose a difficult but interesting turn of events rather than a certain victory, and to move forward with all her might.

(alt: "That's why I said it in the sense that it's rare to see him brooding and unable to move like that. Do what you want to do, choose a more difficult but interesting development, such as a sure victory." , I feel like Tomomi seems to be single-mindedly facing forward...") At least, I don't think it is very wrong.

He became the daughter of a wealthy man after his mother's remarriage and pursued a secure course that guaranteed an enjoyable and comfortable life, but he was so competitive that he enrolled in Hakuryo, a young lady's nest.

It's not the level of effort you can make just because you are brand-conscious.

Tomomi is the one who decides what to do first, right? And there are so many reasons to stop her, but she doesn't even try to choose one.

"..... You talk about me like I'm an idiot, don't you?"

They may not have been the smartest, but they sure looked like they were having fun."

..... Well, I'm not at all happy about it, since I was often the victim.

I'd rather think he's a demon or something.

However, what is extremely troubling is that Tomomi seemed to be very active at that time, no doubt.

So Akiharu became somewhat bitter and said, "I know it's a consultation and things won't go as usual, but you need to clarify what you want to do before thinking about it in a complicated way. Your friend who asked you for advice may want to give you a push, but only you can do anything about your love life, you know.

After I say it, I worry that I may have overstated my case a bit.

I am the one who is worried about whether or not he likes her and confesses his feelings for her, so where do you get off telling me this from?

..... That's strange.

What was supposed to be an encouragement, turns out to be a huge damage to myself in the form of embarrassment? Akiharu suddenly feels embarrassed and hides her flushed face with her hand, looking for Tomomi's reaction.

I thought they were just dumbfounded, but then they said, "..... Yeah. Yes, I know."

I don't really know why, but he is nodding his head mysteriously.

And what's more, despite the calm expression on his face, his eyes looked as if he was prepared to do anything.

Such an unexpected response made us wonder if the line was worth being so impressed with.

I wonder how much of a change of heart it must have caused, to look like someone who decided to accept a house full of memories and a huge debt at the same time.

When Akiharu just stared at her in a daze, Tomomi looked up and smiled softly at him.

Thank you, Akiharu. Thanks for your advice from such a high place, but thanks to you I know what to do.

..... Yes, the black-hearted man is indeed black-hearted.

How could he say such words with such an innocent face?

It's impossible to mix courtesy and sarcasm in such a natural way.

As Akiharu scratches her cheeks, not knowing how the whole thing was an act, Tomomi quietly drinks the remaining milk tea.

He then placed the cup back on the plate without making a sound and said, "I think I'll go back to my dormitory for the rest of the day. I'll see you in class tomorrow.

Uh, got it.

Tomomi stood up as if to say that everything had been taken care of, but Akiharu half-heartedly raised one hand in response.

Normally, Tomomi would have lunged at me and complained about it, but instead, she walked out the doorway without seeming to care.

Akiharu stared at his childhood friend's stretched out back, and wondered what in the world had happened to her.

Tomomi suddenly stops, looks back at me, and with a bright smile on her face, says, "Sir, I want you to take responsibility for making me feel that way.

I don't know what it means, but for some reason it makes me shudder to think about it. (alt: — — Even though I don't understand the meaning at all, for some reason he threw out a chilling line.) I'm not sure what you mean by "....., and? No, wait! What do you mean, ".....?"

Tomomi's hasty questioning was quickly interrupted by a few seconds of confusion, and she quickly resumed her steps and was on her way out of the cafeteria.

Akiharu immediately tried to chase after her, but when she lifted her hips, her energy ran out, and she sat down on a chair, weak and unable to move even a single step.

Then, I watch as the culprit who has been upsetting our pace so much leaves the room and sighs loudly

I mean, what the heck is that guy?"

I would be happy if my worries were relieved, but the lines that followed were too disturbing to be happy at all.

Although Akiharu was scratching his head at his childhood friend's words and actions, whose true intentions he still can't read, he said, "..... well, it's better than being stuck in a corner, isn't it?

I told myself that I could at least think of it as a positive thing.

..... I decided to conveniently ignore the nagging feeling of foreboding that was clinging to me.

Today is a good day! It's a good day to celebrate a special occasion!
"It looks really overcast to me, but is it my imagination?"

Akiharu gives the noisy Todoroki cold words and glances from early in the morning.
Please keep quiet at least while we eat breakfast in the cafeteria.

Sanke in attendance also stop eating their chopsticks and look disgusted.
Shingo-kun, you've been on such a high since you woke up or rather, you've been so noisy since yesterday night, thanks to which I haven't had enough sleep."

"It's natural for a young man to start hustling the night before! What kind of day do you think you're taking today? There it is! You took to mixing natto with natto, so answer me!

..... I don't think there were any specific service projects or homework."

Who the hell are you to ask me about my personal schedule? There are more events that every man looks forward to!"

Roar gets mad and shouts, but Daichi knows that today is Valentine's Day, too.
I think he just didn't want to deal with Nori.

Akiharu eats the last egg omelet left on his plate, puts down his chopsticks, and says, almost as if he is obligated to do so.

I think you're a little too excited about Valentine's Day. You may have an EDUCATION test coming up soon, but can you really afford to be so carefree?"

"I don't care about anything for the rest of the day! Besides, according to my careful calculations, I should be able to meet my quota if I participate in this month's and next month's exams. I'm not worried about my grades, so I can afford it!"

It's strange. As far as I know, there shouldn't be a shred of leeway in the Roar.

In terms of practical skills, he is indeed second to the top, as he says, but in terms of overall evaluation, I think he is still at the bottom of the pile. It doesn't seem to me that this is just an attempt to avoid looking at reality, so Akiharu decided to ask him about it, considering the possibility that it could be a fluke.

"Do you have a real shot at winning? If so, I can understand why you'd be excited.

The monuments are not in the monastery. Don't lick it!

..... I was loudly upset for some reason.

Moreover, the face is smiling so happily that it's easy to see the high tension characteristic of school trips and other big events. Yeah, it's the most annoying thing of all.

(alt: What's more, he's smiling with great joy, and you can tell the high tension that's typical of school trips and other big events... Well, it's nothing more than annoying.) I really want to leave this place as soon as possible, but since Daichi and Sanke haven't finished eating yet, I can't go ahead out of courtesy.

So Akiharu had no choice but to play along and open his mouth.

..... I thought the ladies in the upper secondary school would not give me any chocolate for obligation. If that's the case, then it's only cookies and not chocolates that the girls in the obedience department give you.

(alt: "... High school girls won't give you chocolates as obligations, can they? In that case, it's just the cookies that the girls in the secondary school give you, and it's not even chocolate, is it?") "That's still fine, man! We're all winners just because we get Valentine's Day chocolates from a girl, right? Rumors are circulating about this town, but it's not possible for a normal frat boy to get chocolates from someone outside the family!

"..... uh"

(alt: "..... ah.....") "....., eh, and"

(alt: "..... Uh.....") "Is that what is for?"

The three of us reacted to the roar in different ways.

Daichi, who grew up in the mountains, may have simply voiced his doubts because he did not understand them well, but Akiharu was different.

From the sound of their voices, I guessed that Sanke should be the same as me.

However, what was contained in it was the utmost awkwardness, to which Akiharu added a touch of pity.

Even the most obvious of idiots seemed to sense something, and the smile that had been plastered around his mouth tightened slightly as he said, "What the hell, that reaction! Neither Akki nor Mike have ever received chocolates from anyone outside the family, and yet you have such a cold attitude.

I've had one before. It was from a classmate, not a family member or relative."

When Akiharu interrupted the conversation, Sanke nodded his head and said, "Well, I have one too. Oh, of course, it's just for duty, but not that much.

Is this some kind of follow-up, or is it just a big deal?

The other way to say it is to imply that the company is a "good" company, but that is counterproductive.

It is more damaging to not receive something that is not important.

Just as Akiharu thought, Todoroki's face turned pale and his lips trembled as he watched.

"Ugh, you're lying, right? Okay, junior high school was a boys' school.

I was in elementary school, right? After I went to junior high school, I only received gifts from my cousins who were the same age as me."

I was in junior high school, and the girls in my class were really excited about it. I wasn't the only one who got one, but about half the boys in the class did."

So I'm in the other half of

(alt: ".....If that's the case.....I'm going to be in the other half.....") Todoroki, who drooped his shoulders, muttered self-deprecatingly and let out a dry laugh.

This is not the usual act of a mass production, but rather, it seems that he is seriously depressed.

I mean, Sanke have naturally gouged their wounds too much.

I'm afraid of nature, because she doesn't seem to have any intention to do so.

Akiharu wonders if he should comfort her, but then he notices the door to the cafeteria open over Todoroki's head, and turns his attention to it.

A silver-haired girl appears through the thinly opened door, and at this point I know who it is.

Although it is still surprising to see her here, she is the only one in Hakurei Ling to have such a special hair color and twin tails.

Sure enough, Pina, a middle school student, came in, immediately spotted us, and ran over to us.

I thought I would be the one to do it, so it's not surprising.

However, while it is fine for them to run, what is the unnatural posture of holding their hands behind their backs?

While Akiharu frowns, Pina comes up to him and stands with her hands behind her back and her chest out, "Good morning to you, Akiharu, and to the others as well!

When he greeted her with full of energy like a little child, Akiharu said, "Ah.

I only reply, "I'm sorry, I'm not sure.

(alt: just reply.) Normally I would have responded with something a little more reasonable, but that strangely bright smile is bothering me.

I am wary that they are up to something.

Pina would normally be offended by this reaction, but she seemed unconcerned, smiling and twisting her body in a somewhat contemptuous manner.

"No, Aki, Hal? What's today's day?"

I'm going to go to "..... What? What day is"

"Hmph, you're a bit dim-witted, aren't you? If you can't understand such a simple thing, you must not have much experience with this kind of thing.

I was told I sounded like a winner, but there was no reason not to be.

I simply didn't expect this topic to come out of Pina's mouth.

It seems that Akiharu is not the only one who is unexpected, as evidenced by Todoroki's "No way!

Sanke looked at Pina with a slightly impressed expression on their faces.

Daichi is somehow a bit grumpy and keeps his mouth shut.

Even at, I still can't believe that Pina is going to give me chocolate.

He doesn't seem to care that much about this kind of event, and yet he goes out of his way to come to the dorm this early in the morning to give it to me without being afraid to be seen.

One might expect to have some sort of agenda other than obligation.

At least I have the confidence that I am liked or adored by more than just friends.

Maybe it's just my ego, but he even confessed to me the other day. Maybe this is the arrival of that period of my life when I thought I was an urban legend, the period of my popularity.

(alt: It may be that I'm self-indulgent, but I was confessed to this a while ago... Maybe this is the arrival of the popular period when I thought it was an urban legend.) This situation suddenly makes Akiharu nervous and restless.

And while the small number of other obedience students in the cafeteria were paying attention to her, the petite princess turned her cheeks up slightly and said, "Today is Valentine's Day! I give you chocolates! You shall receive them!"

"Oh, oh. Thanks for the Wait, come on.

"Nooo, what? Not only did you not take it, you scowled at me?

Pina has a lot of question marks on her face, but we are the ones who want to ask questions.

Akiharu gets up from his seat and opens his mouth without taking his eyes off the product that is held out in front of him.

I ask you,, what is this?"

Isn't that obvious?"

No, no, no. Just answer the question.

Chocolate. The popular 'Magical Diva's One-Hit, Suicide-Proof TENCHU Chocolate!

The translucent plastic bag was lifted up with a jerk and contained a package of sweets that certainly looked the part.

A little smaller than a student's notebook, it was a candy with a familiar cartoon character wielding a hammer stick.

That's all well and good, but "....., why such a large number?"

That's what that is. It's not that expensive, so I'll cover it with quantity.

"..... looks to my eyes like it's all been opened?"

As I said, there must be dozens of sweets, but as far as I can see, all the wrappings have been partially torn off, and there are some wafer chocolates glimpsed inside.

And then, Akiharu had an idea as to why this was happening.

So I glanced at the younger student, whose smile began to tighten as he looked at the suspect, and said, "Pina, you bought the card in for the card, didn't you?"

"What proof do you have for that?"

The evidence is right in front of you.

He takes the plastic bag from Pina's hand and says, "Oh, don't wait for me!

Ignoring the voice of the owner, I take out one of the copyrighted sweets from the box.

I then turned my attention back to Pina, who was flustered to find a sentence on the front of the illustrated page that read exactly what I had expected.

..... "There's a Magical Diva trading card inside! It says, "Inside this card is a Magical Diva trading card!" but there's only chocolate in it, right?"

"No, u....., it's some kind of a mistake, isn't it?"

"Mistake, huh? This one and this one are missing. Should we file a claim with the manufacturer?"

You can't do that! We're sponsors of Kaede!

..... I've heard that the board chairman became a sponsor of an animation, but was he involved in this kind of confectionery as well?

It's definitely for the purpose of the card enclosed inside.

The sponsor must have had the authority to offer a sample.

I really feel, from the bottom of my heart, that I am a bad adult, but since I have the reserve army in front of me, I will give priority to them for now.

We need to correct it before it's too late.

Akiharu lets out a small breath and looks at the problem child again.

The look he got made him realize that he had done something wrong, so he backed away slightly and lowered his eyes with a flash of his head, "No, no, no. I was going to give it to you unopened at first, but Hah, I was curious about the card inside and decided to"

You know what, if you open it, don't try to give it to someone else."

But, Akihar. I'm not sure I can handle this amount all by myself. Besides, the chocolate inside is not that great, but the wafers will get soggy.

(alt: "However, Akiharu. It's impossible for me to handle this amount by myself. Besides, putting aside the chocolate inside, the wafer part will get damp...") That's called "leftover garbage disposal. You know what it is?"

To Pina's disappointment, Akiharu sighed and said, "Well, if you can't do it by yourself, you should cooperate with your seniors and the chairman of the board. Everyone likes sweets, right?"

If you eat this much, you'll gain weight and possibly get acne! It's too late for that!

"No, it's your train of thought that's too late, okay?"

When I cut him off, Pina drooped down as if he had been affected a little.

He is like a cat that is always energetic, so when he shuts down, it makes him feel cuter than he should, which is a problem.

With a sense of resignation, Akiharu gives up on the lecture and places the plastic bag containing the snacks still in his hand on the table.

"The next time you do the same thing, I'll confiscate your credit card and make you eat all of it, regardless of whether you get fat or break out in pimples. Do you understand?"

"Nooooo, I know."

Okay," he said. I'll just take this, but I'm sure I won't be able to eat it all by myself today, so I'll eat it with the rest of the obedience class.

(alt: "Alright. Well then, I'll take this, but I definitely can't eat it all by myself today, so I'm going to eat it with my classmates.") I'd say the quota is one per person. There are more than 20 students, male and female, in the education department alone, so while there may be a surplus, there should never be a shortage.

If there are only a few pieces left, I can manage by myself if I work hard enough.

The result is terrible, but at least they tried to give us their favorite chocolates for Valentine's Day, and this is probably where they will fall short.

When Akiharu loosened his expression and patted her head, Pina looked up at him with slightly moistened eyes.

The more energetic, the better.

However, when she was so quiet, her good looks stood out and I felt a bit nervous.

Looking up, Pina's small lips parted shyly, "You know, Akiharu, it's a little presumptuous of me to say this, but"

"Hmm, what is it? Just say it.

I want to win tickets to 's Magical Divas Thanksgiving Event on White Day.

You've made a big deal out of it, and now you want to get back at me for it? You really have the nerve!

"What the hell?

When I charge in at Pina, she runs away as fast as a cat, and in the blink of an eye, she is gone from the cafeteria.

He had no time to warn her not to run in a place where people were eating, so she could do nothing but watch him run away.

Damn, that tomboy princess is

Hino, it's time to go back to your room.

The flat voice of his roommate reached Akiharu's ears, who had made up his mind to lecture him the next time he saw him.

Looking back, I saw Daichi holding the dishes he had finished eating on a tray with both hands.

I feel that my eyes are somewhat cold, but there should be no cause for this, so I think it is probably just a misunderstanding.

I glance at the clock on the wall in the cafeteria and see that it is almost time to go to school.

However, I set a time to arrive five minutes before the start of the morning HR even if I walk normally, so I am not that pressed for time.

We'll be back later, but as always in the lobby. If I'm late, I'll go ahead."

Watching Todoroki, who had left half of his breakfast untouched, hurriedly begin to muck it into his mouth, Sanke said to him, "Yes, I understand. I'll hurry as much as I can.

I had already finished most of my meal, but they smiled back at me without the slightest hint of discomfort.

I admire him for his ability, but I also think that only someone with that level of maturity would be able to be Todoroki's roommate.

It could be a fight that results in one of them being hospitalized or even expulsion for reasons of emotional distress.

Akiharu put away his own dishes and left the cafeteria with Daichi, hoping earnestly that his roommates would not be shuffled around as if he and Daichi had been divided into different classes at the time of promotion to a new school year.

Not necessarily because it was after dinner, but I was a little sleepy.

It can't be blamed on the lack of sleep I've been getting, but my physical condition seems to be a little off.

As Akiharu was biting back the sigh that was about to come out, a reserved voice could be heard from next door.

..... Hino, are you okay? If you're not feeling well, you should take your temperature before coming to school or go to the infirmary instead of the classroom.

Daichi looked up at me from below because of the slight difference in height, and his eyes looked at me with concern.

However, since there is not much difference in appearance, only a few people, including myself, will be able to see the difference.

He gives a strong impression of being cool and casual, but in reality he is a kind and gentle guy who cares a lot, so I feel grateful for his kindness at times like this.

Secretly moved, Akiharu smiled almost shyly and said, "No, I'm fine. "No, I'm fine. I'm just a little depressed from this morning because of the commotion earlier.

I think this is a poor lie, but it is better not to cause unnecessary worry.

If things get really tough, you can go to the infirmary instead of forcing yourself.

Did they believe that I wasn't sick, or did I want so badly for chocolate?"

Although it was good that they believed me, they misunderstood me a little.

But, well, if I deny it and continue to lie, I am likely to get bogged down in a muddle, so I will affirm it, even though it would be a shame.

Uh,, well, yeah.

I said this while thinking that if they laughed at me, I would lightly poke them, but I did not get the reaction I was expecting.

..... or rather, there is no response itself.

Curious as to what was wrong, Akiharu looked into the face of Daichi, who was walking next to him.

Then Daichi looked at me with a very serious face, glanced at me and moved his lips, "..... that if you want it so bad"

Oh?" What?"

You can have and I'll have and I'll give you chocolate.

..... How did it happen that kindness and thoughtfulness took a funny turn?

It sounded like she was trying to be brave, but there was no need to go to such lengths.

Well, let me see, it's not like I want to eat chocolates, even if a guy gives them to me."

I know it's for a good cause, so I said, "No, it's gross that guys give each other chocolates."

Instead, he tried to wrap it up in a subtle overflow of commentary.

I don't understand why you look so sad at

Sometimes I don't understand the sensitivities of this roommate.

Holding regretful thoughts, Akiharu walks alongside Daichi.

And just as I was about to pass through the lobby of the dormitory, I said, "Oh! Oh, Mr. Hino!

A voice called out to me from the side and I turned around to see Shikikagami and Oka standing up from the sofa in the lobby.

Both of them had already changed into the maid's uniform of the obedience course, and Oka had a bag for both of them in her hand.

It is not an uncommon combination, and since they are close friends among the female students, it is not surprising that they were waiting for her here since they sometimes go to school together.

However, the fact that today was the day and what Shikikagami's sister Saori had said yesterday made Akiharu stop in his tracks.

Oka, the brighter of the two, smiles brightly and opens his mouth to say, "Hey, sorry to bother you in your busy morning! I'll be done soon, just for a minute.

"Oh, that's another"

While answering, Akiharu kept her mouth shut because the words were clearly directed at her alone.

As Daichi ponders what to do, he says, "..... I'll go back to my room and get Hino's bag and coat.

Before submitting an answer, the applicant must submit a request.

Since there were no further ideas, Akiharu decided to accept them.

Sorry, can you do me a favor?

"..... If I'm going to be late, I'm going to go ahead."

(alt: "... If it's going to be late, I'll go first.") I thought it had a more muffled sound than the that pushed me away, but I think I'm probably mistaken.

After all the kind remarks, I don't see where Daichi has any reason to be offended.

So, Akiharu is "ah."

Daichi turned his back on me and walked toward his room.

"Hmm, did I do something wrong to you, Daichi?"

"No, I'm not the kind of guy who's going to be bothered by someone coming in with a package, so I'm fine."

I turned my head to look at Oka's words, and for some reason I thought to myself, "You don't understand.

I saw a classmate with a look on his face as if to say, "I'm not a good student, but I'm a good person.

I want to get into it, but if I spend too much time on it, I may be late, so I turn to Shikikagami to finish what I have to do.

I haven't heard anything yet, but I guess they probably have something to do over here.

As if her prediction was right, Oka pressed Shikikagami's shoulder from behind and said, "Look, Sanae! If you don't hurry, Ochi will come back. Hurry up!

Yes! Oh, Mr. Hino."

Shikikagami takes a nervous step forward, hands behind her back, chin pulled back, and looks at us with a superior gaze.

Shikikagami, who was just out of reach, was obviously in a different mood than usual, which made Akiharu a little nervous.

As I was preparing myself by scratching my fingertips on my neck to distract myself, Shikikagami took a deep breath and twisted her body in embarrassment and said, "Well, as you may have heard from my sister, I'm always giving you trouble, and I'd like to apologize or thank you for it. I'd like to thank you for all the trouble you've caused me, but there's so much more to it than that."

Uh, So?"

"And now, if you'd like to take it to, please do so!"

Shikikagami then vigorously put her hand behind her back and said, "I and my sister are going to give this to you!"

Perhaps her forward motion was too strong, or perhaps she was so nervous that she was sweating and slipped, and the wrapped box fell out of Shikikagami's hand.

Akiharu quickly reached out his hand, but Shikikagami, with an impatient look on her face, swung her arm around to catch him, and his body, sensing the danger, froze without moving.

The box that had been flung into the air, and Shikikagami tried to grab it as if she was going to scoop it up from below.

And it didn't end there. The momentum of the swing was too strong, and he spun around on the spot and said, "What, oh, no?"

After circling several times, he lost his balance and fell on his buttocks.

Akiharu, who had been watching the whole thing, locked eyes with Oka, who was also witnessing the miraculous moment.

He looked like he had just witnessed something unbelievable, and he probably had the same expression on his face.

..... It was an unexpected event to fall on the spot without moving a single step.

I don't know how I can complicate things like this.

(alt: How can this kind of thing happen if you complicate the blunder?) "Ugh, I screwed up."

Shikikagami, who staggered to his feet, seemed unhurt and had no problems other than damage to his semicircular canals from the unexpected rotation.

..... but that's Shikikagami's story.

"I'm going to fall down." Oh, my God. Oh, what's that? Chocolate is?"

Shikikagami looks around for something, but Akiharu knows that it is not within his sight.

I was able to see where the missing box went right up until the very end, so unless it was moved at any moment, it should be in an unchanged location.

While thinking that this might be a cruel act, Akiharu pointed to the place.

..... Shikikagami. I'm not looking for that one, I'm looking for"

What? Where?

While murmuring, Shikikagami looks down at the point where Akiharu's fingertips are pointing.

It was where Shikikagami had been sitting just a few moments before, and the wrapped box was there.

..... However, the flat surface was crushed and the packaging was torn in places.

Ah? Why did you go to"

The moment she fell, unfortunately Sanae fell down, right"

As Oka explained hesitantly, the timing was unbelievably brilliant.

A simple drop would have been no big deal, but a fall on one's butt would have been.

It's a miracle that would normally be unthinkable.

However, it was a miracle that did not bring her any joy at all, and Shikikagami was stunned with her hand over her mouth.

Instead, Akiharu picks up the crushed box and unwraps it, being careful not to make the torn wrapping any more miserable.

Then, after shaping the crushed, hard-to-open box by pushing and pulling from the side, I opened it with trepidation and "..... Wow"

(alt: Then, after adjusting the shape of the crushed and difficult-to-open box by pushing and pulling it from the side, I timidly tried to open it... "...wow...") "Oh, cha-cha-....., this is terrible."

Oka's impression, peeking in from the side, expressed everything, which is why Akiharu was unable to speak out.

The original chocolate was apparently a single piece, but it had been broken into pieces, and its appearance was completely lost.

It's probably because I moved the pieces before opening them, and it's probably impossible to put them together like a puzzle.

Looking at Shikikagami, not knowing what to say, Akiharu immediately regretted his mistake.

"....., so much, I worked so hard to make"

(alt: ".....that much.....I did my best to make it.....") I'm not crying or anything, but you're so dejected that your usual brightness is completely obscured by the clouds. I honestly can't stand to look at you.

(alt: I'm not crying, but I'm depressed and the usual brightness is completely hidden in the clouds... Honestly, I can't watch it.) I am sure that Shikikagami did not succeed easily with a single shot.

It's hard to imagine the dozens of attempts it would have taken for a clumsy girl who makes several to dozens of ordinary and critical mistakes.

And then it was shattered into pieces.

And because of my own screw-up.

It was no wonder that even the quintessential Shikikagami was so thoroughly impressed.

That chocolate is something I made personally, so there is a separate chocolate chip cookie that I made with everyone. I made them with everyone else. So, I'll send them to later."

And yet, when I saw her smile, which she was trying very hard to repair, there was no way that I could just go along with it and pretend it didn't happen.

So Akiharu picked a relatively large piece of chocolate from the box she was carrying and popped it into her mouth.

Ah,"

"Mmm, it's delicious. I'll take it, thank you.

When Shikikagami opens her mouth in surprise, Akiharu puts another piece of chocolate in her mouth.

I think it's a bit too much of a show-off, but I think it should be at least this much.

..... or at least this much, or you won't be rewarded.

Although her back was itching with embarrassment, it seemed to have been worthwhile, as she pulled back her forced smile and looked at us with a somewhat dazed expression.

This is a problem to deal with, but it's not just the two of us, and at times like this, talking to a third party is the only way to solve the problem.

Thinking this, Akiharu turned to Oka, who was smiling broadly beside Shikikagami, and asked, "By the way, why were you with Oka? "By the way, why were you with us, Oka?

No, I'm just a chaperone. I came along so that Sanae wouldn't be too lazy to give it to me, but it didn't seem necessary, for better or worse.

Well, as long as Shikikagami was not effective in preventing the occurrence of screw-ups, it could have been the same in either case.

However, there is something that is not quite clear to me, so Akiharu asks about it.

The damage happened as a result, but it's nothing to worry about, right? You don't have to go to the trouble of coming in the morning, you can come with the others after school.

I was told yesterday that the girls in the obedience department would be giving out Valentine cookies about right before dinner, so I thought it was a normal thing to say and said it.

(alt: Akiharu himself had heard that the girls in the secondary school would be handing out Valentine's cookies around dinner time, so Akiharu himself thought that it was a very natural remark, and said it... but.) Why does Oka look so slightly disappointed, like when the lottery draw, for which he had such high hopes, fails so spectacularly?

In addition, Shikikyo, which had been in a slump and seemed to be on the verge of a slight upturn, is now falling below the surface again.

I thought there was nothing special about it, but I don't understand why. "..... I told you it's no good, Sanae. You can't do it, Sanae. You have to be more clear or go for the long game.

....., but I'm afraid it's just a bit shattered to say the least.

(alt: "... but the clear thing was broken..."), I guess I'm a little shocked that he went physically this time.

(alt: "... I'm a little shocked because I've gone physically this time...") I don't understand the meaning of the conversation that is going on in front of my eyes in secret.

Although Akiharu was not sure why Shikikagami was being consoled, he silently watched the exchange, but when their gazes turned to him at almost the same time, he involuntarily stiffened.

(alt: Akiharu, who didn't know why he was comforting Shikikagami, watched the exchange in silence, but when their gazes turned to him almost at the same time, he stiffened involuntarily.)

"Hey, Hino-kun. Do you know the meaning of those chocolates Sanae gave you?

"..... ugh"

(alt: "... Ugh...") The Shikikagami, who is throwing meaningful words at Oka and looking at her with anxious eyes, makes Akiharu sweat while frantically turning her head to the fullest.

Relax, there should be a clue.

It must be a problem that can be understood if one thinks about it.

If there was foreshadowing in the conversation between Shikikagami and Oka, as well as in the other conversations, I'm sure the answer will be, "That's it, isn't it? She did her best for her sister Saori-san, right?"

Yes, it must mean the obligatory chocolates that the Japanese told me they were going to give me last year.

If that's the case, I can understand the sadness he felt when he smashed the chocolate.

Shikikagami and Oka sighed deeply, even though they should have come up with a nearly perfect solution

Then Oka gently tapped Shiki on the shoulder, and they both turned their backs to us and said, "Look, it's just like that. Next time, make it a little easier to understand.

(alt: And when Oka gently tapped Shikikagami on the shoulder, the two of them turned their backs and said, "Look, that's what it is. Next time, it'll be a little easier to understand...") As my sister said, you should write a message in chocolate and send it to"

That "Please enjoy your meal" guy at? If we follow the plan, even Sanae will get burned. She said it's too disastrous to burn her chest, so she's going to reject it.

They went toward the front door, talking about something they didn't understand.

The two of them were in the hallway alone, and Akiharu, who had been left alone in the hallway, looked at their backs as they moved away, but could not speak to them, and remained silent for a while.

I'm going to go to "..... What? That's not right, is it?"

It is not that I was clearly told that it was a mistake, but it is a bit unreasonable to judge it as a correct answer based on that reaction.

I was shocked because I thought my answer was almost perfect.

I wanted to question him about the correct answer, but for a moment his eyes said, "I wasn't expecting it in the first place, but no."

The food was so cold that I couldn't speak.

..... So, what is it? I don't think it's really chocolate, but... ..

There is no way that such a sweet deal is possible, so we will keep that separate so as not to make any misunderstandings.

Standing there, Akiharu was not convinced, and although he scratched his head, he could think of no other answer by the time Daichi came in with his luggage, leaving him in a hazy mood.

Although I left the dormitory at the same time as usual, I arrived at my classroom five minutes earlier than usual.

I think it was because Todoroki and Sanke did not arrive on time, so I walked with a somewhat grumpy Daichi with little conversation, and as a result, I was walking a little too fast.

There were only a few students in the classroom, but there was one unusual person among them, and Akiharu couldn't help but look in her direction.

Selnia, with her familiar voluminous curly hair, stood by the window looking at the door instead of taking her seat for some reason, so naturally our eyes met.

....., you're here.

(alt: "... you're here.") Selnia, who had just put her luggage on the desk, approached Akiharu with a sharp look in her eyes.

What kind of winds are blowing around here, when yesterday they were avoiding us so much?

As Akiharu wonders, Drill comes right up to him and glares at him with a winning look in his eyes.

I'm really not sure what to do. I was afraid you wouldn't come today.

(alt: "You're really taking a long time. I thought you weren't coming today.") I'm just saying, it's a little earlier than usual.

It's not manly to make excuses!

..... What is this unreasonableness so early in the morning?

How could he make such a statement in a classroom where 80% of the students had not yet arrived at school?

There was no atmosphere of a conversation in which they could sit down and talk slowly, so Akiharu looked straight back at Selnia while suddenly becoming nervous.

The noblewoman, who exuded a very intimidating aura, put her left hand on her hip and in her right hand said, "I'm tired of waiting for and I thought about calling it off, but it's not good to waste time, is it? I have no choice but to give it to you.

He thrust an object he was carrying toward us, saying, "I'm not going to let you do this.

She was handed a wrapped box in her right hand, almost as if she was being pushed, and Akiharu reflexively accepted it, saying, "What? Thank you?

"What, what's with that extremely subtle reaction?

Apparently not pleased with her confused, meticulous answer, Selnia snatched back the box she had just handed over, raised her eyebrows, and yelled at me.

It was clearly our fault, so Akiharu couldn't argue back and raised his hands in surrender, but even so, he was still confronted and turned his head away.

With a desk in the back and a Selnia in front of it, the few students in the classroom were constantly changing their attention.

It is quite embarrassing, including the situation of having an unnecessarily well-developed face at close range.

What do you mean, you got a present from me? What is this, and why did you do it knowing what kind of day it is today?

No, it's not! That's not what I meant.!"

Drill-san, who was in a state of anger, was very fierce, and Akiharu looked around the classroom for help.

But, with only the sight of his classmates and Daichi, who had decided to ignore him, the hopelessness of the situation became clear to him.

Just then, someone came into the classroom and their eyes met, and Akiharu did not know whether to be happy or sad that his level of despair had risen.

Because, after all, it's Tomomi.

It's a reversible character that you think is on your side, but before you know it, he's turned into an enemy.

The childhood friend, wearing a black mink coat over her school uniform, seemed to grasp the situation immediately and approached us straight away.

Selnia, perhaps noticing Tomomi's approach, turns her head in that direction and wrinkles her brow in obvious displeasure.

Then, after being pressed so close that their protruding breasts almost touched, they finally took a step back.

Akiharu is relieved and puts his hand around his neck, feeling relieved that he is no longer suffocating.

Tomomi arrives with her bag in hand and her usual brilliant, honor student smile.

Good morning, Selnia and Akiharu. You seem to be having a lot of fun this morning, don't you?"

Good morning. But Tomomi, are you still a little sleepy? I can't believe she looks so happy. Well. I think anyone who sees it will have the same impression.

Tomomi's lips twisted slightly at the sight of Selnia's clear face.

They are as unfriendly as ever, and I wish they would do things without me if at all possible.

I'd like to get away from this place if possible, but Tomomi's and Selnia's positions are preventing me from casually escaping, so I can't do so.

While Akiharu was thinking seriously about whether it would be possible to eliminate the presence, he saw Tomomi's gaze shift to Selnia's hand.

Oh? Is that a Valentine's Day chocolate? For Akiharu-kun?

"You have nothing to do with this, do you?"

Even Tomomi should have noticed the obvious gift-wrapping on this day, especially since she was wearing such a sharp gift-wrapped item.

I think it's fair to say that the company is very good at not pretending to be blind to this.

Her childhood friend, who is still in honor student mode, is still smiling, and for Akiharu, that is scary.

Maybe they're up to something.

I know from intuition and experience that it was before I did something spectacular.

..... However, I am a little concerned about that there was a slight blush on her cheeks.

He seems a bit absorbed or nervous.

I guess it's something that she can tell because she knows there are two sides to every story, but Tomomi would never even show such a sign in her everyday life.

While Akiharu was wondering what was going on, Tomomi's eyes turned to him.

He may be conscious of as usual, but his eyes are overflowing with unconcealed enthusiasm.

Um, Akiharu-kun. May I have a word?

I'm fine with, but...

For a moment, I glanced at Selnia, unsure of my response, but there was no sign of intrusion, so I decided to nod.

It's subtle that is still holding the package of chocolates it just received, but if you have something to do, you'd better put it away as soon as possible.

Since many students will be arriving at school soon, it would be conspicuous if we are slow.

But what is the purpose of this?

Tomomi, who has closed the distance between us, though not as close as Selnia did earlier, changes her clear smile to a slightly more serious one and looks at me with a superior gaze.

Thank you very much for yesterday. I have thought about it a lot since then, and I have taken your advice to heart in communicating with my client.

Well, that's good.

So I thought I would give you a Valentine's Day gift as a way of saying thank you for yesterday's gift. But since I only thought of it yesterday, I didn't have much time to go out.

(alt: "That's why I thought I'd give you a Valentine's Day gift as a way of thanking you for yesterday.) "Uh,, not that I..."

Akiharu said, "I don't care if I don't get it."

I was about to say, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry," but Tomomi grabbed me around the arm before I could say anything, and my voice stopped involuntarily.

(alt: I was about to say that, but before I could do that, Tomomi grabbed my upper arm, and my voice suddenly stopped.) It's not exactly a replacement.

"..... huh?"

My eyes were reflexively falling on the arm that grabbed me, so my reaction was delayed.

When Akiharu looked up again, Tomomi's familiar face was right in front of him and he felt a soft touch on his mouth with a small "kiss" sound.

..... Akiharu is stunned as she looks at the face of her childhood friend, who is now just a few feet away from her.

The actual touching lasted only a moment, and I didn't even have time to say anything.

However, the impact of that short time was so great that my mind went blank.

It was not only Akiharu, but also Selnia, who was seen on the other side of Tomomi, looked astonished.

Tomomi, Ms., you, now!

(alt: "Oh... Tomomi, Mr..... You, right now...!") They are not able to say exactly what they did or how they did it, but what they want to say is conveyed to us.

I'm in a similar situation myself, so that makes it even worse.

While Akiharu was still unable to think straight due to the shock, Tomomi was looking on, her cheeks flushed with a blush as she continued to smile, "For now, this will be my Valentine's gift to you. Can I have one more?"

"What the hell is?"

The reaction was like that of a ghost story or a man who has a lot of trouble with his liver, but no one in the classroom could help but laugh.

I think it is a proof that everyone, including Akiharu himself, is caught up in this development and is unable to keep up with it.

Tomomi, who is alone in the middle of this, lays her hands on her chest and takes a small, deep breath.

After a few moments of silence, the childhood friend, who caught everyone's attention like a stage actress in the spotlight, turned serious while leaving a faint smile on her mouth "Will you go out with me?"

The shock of the surprise gift was overshadowed by the outrageous comment he made.

「早苗さん、お別れだそうですよ？」
「は、はい……！ な、名残惜しいのですが、皆さんもお元気で——ひゃわっ！」
「あらあら、最後までサービス満点ですね」

四季鏡沙織
Saori Shikikagami

&

四季鏡早苗
Sanae Shikikagami



「みんな、すごく楽しかったよ！ またね！」

桜沢みみな
Mimina Ousawa

