

Daichi is in a strange state.

It was almost ten days ago when Akiharu Hino first thought so.

That day, Oka from the same obedience department asked me to take Daichi out for a double date, but after we came back separately, Daichi's behavior became blatantly strange.

I asked Oka if something had happened since we had parted, but he denied it with a meaningful smile and gave me no answer.

Since Daichi did not give him any answers when he asked it directly, Akiharu had no choice but to withdraw quietly from the situation. However, after nearly ten days, he thought, "Maybe it would be better to send him to a countryside resort where the air is clean and he can feel at ease.

(alt: When he asked Daichi directly, he didn't answer, so Akiharu had no choice but to quietly withdraw. Wouldn't it be better to let him go to) It is difficult to overlook the fact that the situation continues to make me think, "What is the point in doing this?

He often leaves dinner unattended, and when he wakes up in the morning, he sometimes looks as if he hasn't slept at all.

Since there was no way he could leave her alone, Akiharu decided to talk to her before bedtime.

"..... Hey, Daichi."

(alt: "... hey, earth") What? What?

I had just called out to her, but the woman sitting on the bed turned her head in an exaggerated manner.

She even posed with both hands clutching her chest. Yeah, it's weird after all.

(alt: On top of that, he's even taken a pose where he grabs his chest with both hands... yeah, it's weird after all.) He has been in this kind of mood for a while now, but that doesn't mean he is going to start looking normal anytime soon.

Akiharu also sat on his own bed, wondering what was wrong, and asked, "Lately, you've been acting kind of strange. Is it possible that you're having some trouble?"

"..... has nothing to worry about. Not at all.

"Really? Then what's with all the strange behavior lately?"

There should be nothing wrong with There should be nothing wrong with

(alt: "... Oh, there shouldn't be anything strange...!") He says this with a bit of a stronger tone, but I can't seem to nod my head in agreement.

I'd like to show them a mirror, or if there is a recording of what I've been doing recently, I'd like to put it up on the big screen.

For example, a few days ago, during physical education class, "..... Hey, Daichi? How long are you going to stay in a daze?

Hino! What do you want?

I mean, it's almost time for gym class to start, right? If you don't get changed quickly, you'll be late.

"What the are you doing telling me to change my clothes in front of you?"

I didn't say anything about in front of you. You can go to the locker room or the nearest restroom.

"..... Oh, oh,"

(alt: null) The day before yesterday, during a service project, I said, "Hey, did you finish cleaning up over there - - what's that?"

".....? What's wrong, Hino?"

No,, it looks like you're done picking up trash, but what happened to all those petals scattered under your feet?"

".....? This is not fortune-telling!

....., well, it's fine if you clean it up properly, but

(alt: "..... Well, it would be nice if I could clean it up properly, but.....") ○Today, when you get up, "..... ♪..... towards?"

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) Huh. Ah?"

"....."

"....., Daichi? What the hell are you doing?"

..... I didn't do anything else.

(alt: ".....I haven't done anything.") "Just staring down at or that bed from the side is quite"

And, well, the situation was quite strange.

This morning was particularly bad.

I was so startled that I thought I was about to scream or have my soul explode.

It's a bit of a horror story to have a person standing right next to your bed, dressed in a samue and a hanten.

And he had a very mysterious look on his face, as if he was in deep thought. The curtains were open and there was some light, but if it were pitch black, he would have screamed or fainted for sure.

(alt: What's more, he had a rather serious look on his face as if he was overwhelmed by something... The curtains were open, so it was a little bright, so if it was pitch black, I'd definitely have a choice between screaming or passing out.) So, as the days went by since our double date, Daichi's condition became more and more strange, and I couldn't leave him there any longer, so I tried to talk to him in this way, but it was still strange.

During the daytime service activities in the cafeteria, there were some mistakes in ordering, which would not be common in a normal college, and some students did not hear the customers' voices, which made students other than Akiharu say, "There is something strange about this.

I am beginning to think that the "I" in "I" is a "I".

He seemed to be receiving a lecture from Fukagan after school, but even at dinner he was still somewhat dazed and not on the mend.

If that's the case, I guess it's up to me as a roommate.

Even so, Daichi often follows up with me in some way or another, and I am always grateful for his help.

When I am mentally exhausted, they listen to me even when I complain, and I am always grateful to them for their casual concern.

That's why Akiharu is so determined to take this opportunity to return the favor, even if just a little, while asking Daichi again, "Why did you do this to me?"

I don't know if you're aware of it, but lately you've been acting really weird. If you don't have any problems, that's fine, but are you under any kind of stress?"

"..... stress"

Daichi hangs his head in thought at our words.

The fact that he did not immediately deny the possibility suggests that he was unaware of the possibility.

Akiharu sat down on the bed and scratched his back, hoping that he would think about it slowly and not rush.

Daichi, still prone, moves his small hand to stroke his knee and asks, "Is this stress"

I don't know what it was, but apparently it was a hit.

(alt: I don't know what it was, but it seems to have been a hit.) However, since there was no sign of an upset, it may have been a vague coiling feeling, which he recognized as stress.

Even in such a situation, it is better than having no clue, so Akiharu was careful not to be too hasty and said, "I can't be too sure, but I think there is a high possibility. She seems to be a little under the weather lately, so she hasn't been sleeping much, right?"

I'm not sure what you mean by ".....? How did Hino know about my sleeping situation?"

I'm sure you'd understand if you lived in the same room with me. Even though she lies down earlier than me, she doesn't seem to be able to sleep at all, and yet she wakes up before me."

(alt: "Well, if you live in the same room, you'll understand. Even if you lay down earlier than me, you still haven't fallen asleep at all, and yet you still wake up before me.") "....."

(alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) Daichi looks up in shock, but anyone who lives in a room with only a curtain separating it from the rest of the house would understand.

It is wintertime, so I can often hear the sound of the bedclothes rubbing against each other as I turn over and over in my sleep, and even if we put this morning aside, the bed is always empty even though I am up at 6:00 a.m.

Even though he is up earlier than I am, it is obvious that he is sleep deprived because he has a very tired complexion.

Why does Daichi look like the end of the world when it is"

In response to Todoroki's death-defying act of bringing pornographic books into the dormitory on the night of the incident, Fukakan suddenly announced, "We are going to conduct an unannounced search of your belongings.

I was just like when they came in with their "I'm a good person.

Seeing the look of despair on Daichi's face, Akiharu scratches his cheek lightly with his finger.

This reaction is not that shocking.

Maybe it's something like, "..... are you hiding something from me,"

"..... っ!?"

I can't say yes or no, but a panicked averted glance was like an answer.

Although it was almost like a guess, Akiharu wondered what he should do now that his prediction had come true, and fiddled with the safety pin in his right ear.

It's okay to have a secret or two.

It would be ideal if we could talk openly with each other, but considering Daichi's personality, it would be reckless to ask for such a relationship, and it is enough if we can help each other while maintaining a reasonable distance.

I'm not sure if it's a problem that I want to discuss with you, but I can't discuss it with you if I don't know what your main concern is, and besides, that response may be something that you don't want to tell yourself at the pinpoint.

(alt: .) If so, this exchange will only be a burden to Daichi.

It's a well-meaning action, but there are times when it works out for the worse. Thinking about that, Akiharu looks at Daichi once again.

(alt: It's an action that he thinks is good, but it can also work badly... Thinking that far, Akiharu looked at Daichi again.) Sitting on the bed, Daichi seemed even smaller than usual, perhaps because he was in a position where he was holding his knees, even though he was petite.

The eyes glancing at us seem to be filled with a certain amount of fear. In this situation, there is almost no action that we can take.

(alt: The glimmering eyes seemed to be filled with fear... and now, the actions I can take are almost limited.) It can't be helped," said Akiharu with a small breath, "Well, there it is. I'm not sure if it's a good idea or not, but I'm sure it's a good idea. But if there is something I can do, or if it is really hard for you, just tell me, okay?

"..... Hino, I'm"

(alt: "... Hino, I...") "Ah, it's okay. I'm sorry I was trying to sleep.

(alt: "Oh, okay. I was about to go to sleep, and I'm sorry.") When Daichi looked seriously apologetic upon hearing our words, Akiharu smiled lightly and broke off the conversation.

Then the curtains separating the beds are closed, and after a while Daichi dims the lights in the room to make it dark.

While lying on his bed, Akiharu turned his head to the side and looked at Daichi, which was supposed to be beyond, even though it was pitch-dark and there were even curtains.

It may be a little difficult after such a conversation, but let's hope you can get a good night's sleep.

What is it about that keeps going unresolved even after ten days of? It would be nice if I could do something about it before I get stuck in a corner like I was in middle school, but I have no idea what to expect, so I can't make any predictions.

Well, whatever. "It was around, so it's bound to happen."

Muttering this in his mouth, Akiharu pulled the futon back on and closed his eyes.

..... Hey, are you sure you're okay?

"..... is fine. No problem.

No matter how many times I ask, I get the same answer, and even Akiharu says, "Oh, is that so?

I am not convinced that this is the case.

I mean, not only myself, but even Todoroki said, "You don't look well."

The land was in such a bad shape today that one could almost say, "This is not a good day to be in the top 10.

Unfortunately, it was impossible for him to recover from yesterday's bad mood.

As I expected, Daichi woke up earlier than Akiharu and had dark circles under his eyes and a complexion that suggested he had probably not slept at all.

Yet he is so tense that he never falls asleep in class or makes a mistake during lunchtime service activities, and he is always ready with a good conversation.

However, I've come to the point where I suddenly think, "I'm at my wits' end," as if I might be sleeping on my feet.

I don't feel at ease at all.

In addition, I have a feeling that the education class this afternoon is going to be quite hard.

The location is an indoor heated pool.

Running and walking in the mountains are hard, but swimming is harder when you consider the load in the water.

We will now begin the emergency drill. The setting will be acclimated to the ocean and water and will cause waves, so please be prepared for them.

The "Mere Old Man" was in his usual indigo maid's uniform, while the "Akiharis" were still in their school uniforms.

I haven't been in a pool while wearing a uniform since my first class right after transferring, so I feel a bit nostalgic.

..... Well, we can only indulge in such leisurely indulgences now.

Soon you'll be in such a bad way that you'll want to cry and thank God that you can stand and walk on two feet on the ground.

Once you are comfortable with the water, you will move on to the second phase. A doll will be submerged in the center of the pool. Assume that the doll is your host, and try to rescue it safely. The entire process of getting out of the pool and giving artificial respiration is one step, so please move quickly and safely.

If you're going to do artificial respiration, I think it's better to do it with practice than with a doll!

If that is what you want, then Mr. Todoroki will go down first instead of the doll, is there any objection? However, if no student wishes to be rescued, he/she will continue to float at the bottom of the pool.

"Gosh, I have a strong feeling that I'm going to die.? At that time, the sensei will save you, and give you a passionate kiss with his wet body.

If you want to go under right now, I can grant you that wish.

His tone is calm, but behind his silver-framed glasses, his deep-set eyes are narrowed, and he is very frightening.

Even though the weather was completely unrelated to the autumn weather, the temperature seemed to drop several degrees, and even the quintessential Todoroki did not make any more silly comments.

Even so, he still retains a buoyant atmosphere, so in a sense, that pseudo-Kansai person is amazing.

No, well, I'm not impressed.

And he's from Ibaraki.

Akiharu does not have the luxury to do so.

It's been a while since we've had a pool class, and we had to take this kind of training very seriously because we had to rescue Selnia from a near-drowning in the ocean.

I would also like to add one more thing: I am still concerned about Daichi.

Glancing to the side, I saw a pale but resolute roommate who seemed to have no intention of observing the event.

Shinkan may seem cold-blooded, but he is actually a student-oriented person, and if you voluntarily report that you are not feeling well, he will give you a day off. He is so determined to challenge the class that he is not likely to accept our persuasion in any way.

(alt: Fukagawa may seem cold-blooded, but he really cares about his students, so if you declare that you're not feeling well, he'll let you rest. It doesn't seem like they will accept my persuasion.) So, as for Akiharu, all we can do is hope that Daichi will pull through safely.

..... Well, in terms of simple ability, he is far superior to me, so I guess he would rather tell me to work harder than that.

If there are no other questions, I will start the "Troubleshooting: Intermediate level" section. Is that okay?

As I looked at each student's face in turn, no one raised a hand or opened his or her mouth.

When couldn't hold back any longer, Akiharu raised his hand in fear.

Immediately, Fukaba turned to me and said, "Mr. Hino, what can I do for you?

"Well, this doesn't have much to do with the content of the class, but who came up with that subtitle that sometimes appears on?"

"I am the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. "This is the president of the Board of Trustees, and this was added when you submitted your lesson plans."

Uh, I see."

"I don't think so, but did you think I would have thought of that?"

"....."

I was in silent denial, but I thought there was a slight chance of that.

It is more like a wish than a prediction.

If you imagine an expressionless cool beauty naming a strange class, the gap between the two is too big to be attractive.

No, well, if I actually witnessed such a scene, I would probably just pretend I didn't see anything.

After staring at me as if he was going to shoot me, he glanced at the other students and asked, "Do you have any other questions? Now, everyone, please get in the pool."

Finally, the instructions came, so we gave up on Akiharu and proceeded to the side of the pool.

Once you sit down near the helicopter in the pool and put your right foot in the water.

Something unexpected happened, and he panicked and pulled his leg out of the pool as if he were jumping out of it.

I fell backwards because I was too energetic, but I didn't care about that.

As it was before anyone had entered the building, the other students in the obedience course were looking at us curiously.

Especially the girls nearby, who held the front of my skirt with a glare, thinking that I was trying to peep into their eyes.

For the sake of his own honor and the safety of his friends, he thought that if he didn't clear up the misunderstanding as soon as possible, he would be in big trouble.

Looking up, I see a smiling idiot who puts his hand on my shoulder in a familiar manner and says, "You're not ready yet, akkie. When you peek, you need to be more bold and subtle, don't you? Or, you need to be stealthy so that you will never be detected.

When Todoroki gives him advice that is completely unnecessary, he deliberately strokes his all-back hair.

Then, shifting his gaze from Akiharu to the pool, he said, "I know, but your idea of trying to get the best position before anyone else is brilliant. After all, you can naturally peek inside her skirt from a low position!

"....., no, I'm not trying to"

(alt: "... No, I didn't mean to do that...") Don't say, "Yes," to everyone. Instead of the scared akkie, this nice guy will secure a great spot and show you how men live!"

When Todoroki said that, he bent his knees lightly and bent his upper body forward and said, "That's bad.

This idiot is going to jump in the pool.

The pool here is over three meters deep, so you don't have to worry about hitting your head on the bottom, but now we have a completely different problem.

So, in a panic, Akiharu tries to stop Todoroki, "Wait, wait a minute, you idiot!

I'm not stupid, so don't wait for me! Let's go to the wet, wet, transparent paradise!

The outstretched hand just barely fails to grab the hem of the morning coat that Todoroki was wearing and swings out of the way, and the idiot whose brain is filled with eroticism and whose form is so beautiful that he jumps into the pool "Oh my god....

The entire facility was filled with echoing screams.

"I told you to wait for, but you said"

I muttered to myself, "Oh dear," but it was too late.

The other members of the group were puzzled as to what had happened and the reason for the screams, but Akiharu could understand.

When I dipped my toe in the water just now, the water was so cold that I felt a jolt of pain.

We had assumed that the pool was heated to an appropriate temperature because it is an all-weather heated pool, but when we were greeted with cold water that may have been in the single digits, an overreaction or two should not be surprising.

While still seated, Akiharu turns around and looks up at the only one who has not changed his expression.

"What does this mean at"?"

I thought I said the setting was offshore. "I should have said the setting was offshore, but considering the current season, we decided to train in water temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius to further adjust the difficulty level."

He said, "If you don't tell me that, I'm going to die. It's a good thing that Todoroki was the victim.

The "carelessness is a great enemy. The chancellor made an unusually good point when he said that even though it is a class, it is a good idea to include a hidden element to keep the students on their toes."

(alt: "Carefulness is a great enemy. Even though it's a class, the chairman made a rare good remark that it's good to put in a hidden element so that you don't let your guard down.") No, that chancellor must have just been having fun.

In the first place, I don't think anything he said was good.

As Fukayoshi makes a subtly offhand comment, Akiharu lets out a deep sigh and "..... that Shingo-kun, you've created a sinking sensation.

(alt: Akiharu let out a deep sigh at Fukagawa's slightly off-kilter remarks... "... Um... Shingo-kun, you're depressed...") "We can afford to go all the way upside down and then sink, so let's just let it go."

Sanke were stunned, and they replied to Sanke's words without hesitation, and began their preparatory exercises carefully once again.

"Oh,, that's a tough one, that's"

Even though she entered cautiously, the water was still cold, and Akiharu shivered as she swam standing up.

The water temperature is so intense that it is not surprising to find ice floating in the water, and before you get used to the water, you will be so cold that you will be unable to move.

The other students in the pool were also screaming, and it didn't matter if they were nostalgic for this class, or if they felt uncomfortable moving around in their clothes.

I am able to endure the challenge just in time because I have had the experience of traversing the Tottori Sand Dunes in mid-summer and snow-covered mountains in winter.

All that's left is the will to do it, because if we don't do it, it won't get done.! Feeling the danger of getting pneumonia as well as a cold if it goes on too long, Akiharu swims to the center of the pool as quickly as possible in order to finish rescuing the dolls.

(alt: The rest is spirit, with the spirit that if you don't do it, it won't end, so do it...! Feeling the danger of getting pneumonia instead of catching a cold if it goes on for a long time, Akiharu hurriedly swims to the center of the pool in order to finish rescuing the dolls as soon as possible.) I do breaststroke because I don't want to get my face in the water, but just scratching the water makes my fingertips hurt so much I want to cry.

..... I mean, the doll has sunk, so it has to go under. Is this really going to kill it? Even Todoroki, who had been acting like an idiot, immediately came to the surface with a pale face. Even though it was for the purpose of completing the assignment, it is hard work to dive to the bottom and float up with the doll in your arms, even in warm water.

Although they had come close to the center, Akiharu was at a loss as to what to do when he heard a hard, quiet voice.

Then it's time for my husband to surface. I have set a grace period of 30 seconds, so everyone please remain calm and rescue your master.

"..... Heh? What do you mean, "surfaced?"

I turned around, not understanding what he was saying, and saw Fukagan, who had moved a little further away from the side of the pool, tilting the lever in some way.

The entire pool vibrates lightly as the surface of the water surges, and when it subsides, an adult-size doll floats to the surface.

Seeing the dolls that began to line up one after another on the surface of the water, Akiharu grabbed a doll that was close at hand with a sense of understanding.

Something fixed to the bottom of the pool must have been removed or opened with the device that Deepika just used.

I am relieved that I am not diving into this cold water, but then I notice something.

..... earlier said, "My husband is going to float."

This is what I am talking about.

Then you said afterwards, "You have 30 seconds."

What exactly does that mean? It is impossible to get out of the pool in 30 seconds with a doll that is barely the same size as you, let alone with clothes on.

Although it is the easiest to understand that the rescue will fail because of time overload, the correct answer is probably different, since Fukayasu is reckless but not unreasonable.

If that's the case, and while I was thinking about it, I swam to the side of the pool with the doll under my arm, but I still couldn't make any progress.

The other students seemed to be doing the same, and all I could hear was the sound of them struggling.

And when the autumn sun was about halfway up, the mystery was solved.

I think it would be more correct to say that or rather, that the right solution started happening right in front of us.

No matter how insensitive he may be, if the water he was swimming in starts surging past his face and flowing with great force, he should understand.

In other words, the grace that Fukayasu was referring to earlier was the time it takes for the waves to appear, and that's why he said that the setting was on the ocean!

If I had known that, I would have pushed myself a little harder to hurry, but now it's too late.

The waves came in and swept over me and the doll I was holding, covering my head with water.

It was so cold that she couldn't scream, and Akiharu tried her best to hold back her involuntary shrinking.

Even if we give it our all, we can only make a little progress, but we still have to work hard to break through this situation.

Fortunately for you, the water is not a constant current, and sometimes it will push you backwards and forwards, so if you don't give up, you should be able to get to the side of the pool before you run out of energy.! I was so confused in my first class, but I've had a lot of bad experiences since then, so I'm still able to keep my cool.

(alt: Perhaps it should be said that it is a blessing in misfortune, the water flow is not constant, and sometimes it will push your body forward from behind, so if you don't give up, you should be able to reach the pool side before you run out of stamina... ! During my first class, I was just confused, but since then I've had worse experiences, so I'm still able to keep my cool.) It seems that Akiharu was not the only one, and although voices that sounded like screams could be heard from all over the place, there was no sound of serious pleas for help.

We all grow up in the same way. Help me, please!

..... Correction, there was also a guy who didn't seem to have grown much.

The moment the familiar voice reached her ears, Akiharu braced herself and prepared for anything to happen, but she was hit from behind and plunged face first into the water.

It is more painful than cold, and it is hard to open my eyes.

Moreover, something thin was wrapped around my neck, doubling my agony.

But thanks to my vigilance, I didn't panic, and I was able to clench my teeth and swim to the surface.

We are so thankful for the warm air compared to water, but we can't even chew on that happiness.

"Pfft... .., are you okay, Shikikagami?"

No, no, no, it's okay!

When Akiharu asked him about it, he replied that he didn't seem to be too worried about it.

I had gotten used to the strange and harsh classes, but as I expected, Shikikagami attacked me from behind with ferocious vigor, hugging me tightly as if she didn't want to die.

This makes it even more difficult for us to move, but it is still better than being roughed up.

..... I mean, the fact that he's clinging on with both arms means that he failed to rescue the doll as soon as possible.

I'm more in the position of being the recipient of help.

The hot breath of Shikikagami tickled my cold neck, and the large object crushed in my back and the legs entwined around my waist made me think of all sorts of strange things, but I ignored them as best I could.

At any rate, while resisting to be swept away from the pool side, Akiharu desperately kept the doll in his arms, "So, you can't do anything by yourself, can you?

I didn't tell you this until now, but I'm actually a very bad swimmer! My body just sinks down on its own."

"そっ....."

"Do your ample bosoms not serve the purpose of a floatation bag?"

I was about to say, "I'm sorry, but I'm afraid that would be sexual harassment," but I held back. (alt: Although I was about to say that, it would be sexual harassment, so I endured it.) It can't be helped. If you work hard, rather than hoping for Shikikagami to help you, you should have a better chance of survival.

We can't abandon them, so we just carry the two rescuers to the side of the pool, believing that we can do it.

To be honest, it would be quite reckless, but even so, Akiharu swam hard and said, "Shikikagami, you don't move for the time being. I'll take you there somehow, so just bear with me for a little while!

Haha, yes~. But, that even I think I can be of some help to you, Mr. Hino!

"No, you're causing me the most trouble at this point, so give me a break, will you? I'll hang on to you and that's all that matters."

"Uu..... then, at least, things as support."

Words that make people anxious increase the sense of foreboding, but there is nothing else that Akiharu can do, as he is doing his best just to keep moving forward in the midst of the rough, irregular seas.

Even so, the tight grip around my neck softened, and I could feel that Shikikagami had released one of my arms.

I was not sure what they were going to do, which made me even more anxious.

(alt: I couldn't read what he was going to do, and my anxiety increased.) Even though I told him not to move, I could feel a slight vibration coming from his back.

It's very distracting, but if I don't concentrate, I'm likely to drink water when I breathe, making it difficult to reach the finish line.

Therefore, Akiharu ignores the Shikikagami on her back as much as possible, and uses her body, which can sink if she is not careful, to advance toward the side of the pool with great effort.

I was beginning to run out of steam, as if I was pushing myself too hard, but I still kept moving forward, one hand wading through the rough water, "Good, boy. Kyah!

(alt: Perhaps because I was pushing myself too hard, I started to run out of breath, but even so, I was trying to push my way through the rough surface of the water with one hand.) ".....!"

(alt: 「.....!?!」) The Shiki mirror on his back seemed to lose its balance and came at him as if clinging to his head.

..... Well, that's okay.

It didn't take much to sink the ship, and the impact wasn't too great.

I have already known that Shikikagami would make a mistake to some extent, so I was prepared for it as soon as I took on the responsibility.

Then what is it about this feeling in the back of my head?

The feeling of wet hair on my head, soft yet incredibly resilient, cradling my head in its grip.

.....

(alt: I could feel it through my wet hair, it was soft yet extremely elastic, and it was wrapped around my head...)



..... and Shiki Mirror

"Yes, yes? What is it?"

Or, whatever that is called."

Despite the fact that there was no room to spare, Akiharu hesitated to ask the question.

It is not necessary to go to the trouble of confirming the identity of the object that is hitting you on the head.

Considering the position of the body, it is almost certainly the chest.

If that's not enough to cause you some problems, how can you say, "You are you taking off your clothes?"

I am aware that this is a pretty stupid statement.

If it is taken as nothing more than sexual harassment, there is no room for rebuttal, and Akiharu does not want to say such a thing.

But how else to interpret the direct and dynamic softness of the softness and the warmth that would not be possible if wiped with a towel full of sunlight?

Do you think I'm having a fairy-tale hallucination that I'm so cold that when I light a match I see a feast and a happy home in the fire? However, the feeling of her own wet hair being so soft that it was definitely real and disturbing, Akiharu was skeptical and asked her about it. The answer from Shikikagami, which came from a rather high position rather than from behind her, was, "Well, I'm taking it off. I'm taking off my clothes, or rather, I'm about to take them off!

A very good reply, but the content is too much.

In addition, if anyone were to see you, you would be out of the game, and your reputation would almost certainly be ruined.

Akiharu's eyes darted around to make sure no one was looking at him, then he asked, "Why did you take off your clothes? Why are you taking it off?

But it's the least I can do.

(alt: "But this is all I can do...") It sounds like a good story, but I don't see the connection anywhere.

The first time I saw her, I thought she was going to be a good friend of mine, but then she stopped just in time.

The thing that is pinching the back of your head means that if you turn around, it will catch you in the face.

That's not good. It would be a dream experience that every man should try at least once, but it is beyond the scope of what is allowed to happen in class.

If you look across the surf, by the pool, you'll see "....."

Deepika, dressed in an indigo maid's outfit, looked at me with eyes colder than the cold water that fills the pool.

And in his hand - a hard beat board, spread out like a playing card.

Since he is concerned about the safety of his students, he may not be paying special attention to Akiharu, but that does not mean he will overlook someone who behaves immorally during class.

We can say that this is absolutely impossible.

If not, at least Todoroki would have received a more rewarding return for his risk.

This is probably within the margin of what is acceptable.

If you deviate even a little, the beat board released from your hand is sure to knock you down without leaving any happy memories.

The power of the fountain pen throw, and the fact that I once watched up close as Todoroki sank into the water after taking a beet slab to the side of his head in a fit of rage, set off alarms that he should not be allowed to take that kind of bite.

Akiharu, realizing that there was no way to look back, said, "No, I never intended to do that in the first place, I just wanted to check what was going on behind my back, you know?"

Then I asked Shikikagami again, "What is it that you want to do?"

"..... and? Why did you take it off?"

I thought that there was something I could do in addition to taking care of Mr. Hino. I was wondering if I could at least protect you from the cold. You know, they say that when it's cold, it's good to rub skin to skin."

No, you can't even do that if you're already worn out, can you? Besides, I'm still dressed!

"Well, do you want me to undress Ms. Hino as well?"

Don't go in the opposite direction of what you think is right!

But I'm good at taking my clothes off and getting them off myself, but I'm not so confident about getting people to do it for me.

(alt: "But I'm good at taking off my clothes, but I don't have much confidence in taking them off...") "Normally, people don't have that kind of self-confidence! I mean, the first half of the show was a bit strange, too!

But it's not easy to unbutton a wet garment with one hand! But since you were able to do it so easily, I think it's fair to say that you're good at it!

That doesn't mean I doubt your skill level!

I can't keep up with all the ramblings.

The point of concern is that it is all out of date, and it is impossible to correct it.

Moreover, it is really a waste of energy to use it for something like this.

What are they doing when they are in a more difficult situation than other students?

It's no wonder that Akiharu felt so ashamed of himself and shook his head to distract himself from his thoughts, "Oh Hino-san, if you move too much, you'll get that

"....., that was my fault! But you should refrain from making funny noises!

But the hair rubs against the

Just as I was about to concentrate, this happened, and I felt like I was losing all my strength. Good luck, yourself.

When I overcome this situation, I am sure I will have grown into a person I can be proud of.

This time around, she shrugged off her worries and concentrated on moving forward, but she was a little carried away by the mindless back-and-forth, and the path to the side of the pool seemed far away.

Still, we can certainly move forward, even if it is only little by little.

The water is painfully cold, my fingers feel numb and numb, and my clothes are stuck to my skin, making it hard to move.

I think it would have been impossible for me when I first started my education.

They were swept away, and soon ran out of energy.

I am not too happy to see my growth in this way, but it is very encouraging to know that I can do it even with the handicap of a doll on my right arm and a Shiki mirror on my back.

From the outside, it would probably look terrible from an artistic standpoint, but we'll ignore that.

If he felt faint even for a moment, he would lose strength in his limbs, so he repeated the image of reaching the pool side and just kept moving forward, even when the waves hit his face, without fear. In any case, Akiharu was so desperate that he didn't even notice anyone nearby until he felt something on his arm. Akiharu was so desperate anyway that he didn't even realize someone was nearby until he felt something touch his arm.

(alt: Akiharu thought that he would lose the strength in his arms and legs if he felt weak even for a moment, so Akiharu repeated the image of reaching the poolside, earnestly moving forward, going forward without flinching even if the waves hit his face...Anyway, Akiharu was desperate. I didn't even realize someone was near me until I felt something touch my arm.)
The slight shock on my arm, which was holding the doll, almost reflexively made me look in that direction. What?

"..... ひの？"

The unexpected face there made Akiharu unintentionally fail to time the arrival of the wave, and he drank some water.

Coughing, I tried to keep my balance, but Daichi was so strange that I couldn't help but notice it even as I coughed

Are you okay? Stay with me, man!

They were shouting near my ear, but it was obvious that they didn't need confirmation.

There was no power in her voice, and her eyes were narrowed painfully as if she was about to give up her consciousness.

It is an extraordinary situation that Daichi, who has the highest physical ability in the training department, has not yet reached the goal.

I knew before the class began that I was in far from perfect physical condition, but although I was barely holding on to the doll, it seemed as if I was doing my best just to hold on to it and let it wash over me.

This was a shock to Akiharu, and he could think of nothing to say to her.

I was fully aware that my roommate was not in perfect physical condition, but even so, until I saw her in such a frail state, I was convinced that she could easily pass such an absurd class.

I feel like cursing myself for being an idiot.

Even though Daichi himself insisted on doing it, and even though his supervisor, Fukaba, did not stop him, he should have stopped himself if he was truly concerned.

No matter how great he is, he is still a high school student.

Regret is flooding in all at once, but Akiharu bites his back teeth and lets it go, concentrating on the reality that is happening right now.

I will not be depressed by the guilt until I get back to my dormitory.

What is more important is to somehow get through the class with my roommate who is about to drown.

Hey, Daichi!

"..... aa"

(alt: "..... ah.....") When Akiharu called out strongly to scold her, for some reason Daichi smiled weakly as if he had lost his mind and closed his eyes.

At about the same time, the strength slips from his arms, he lets go of the doll, and it sinks into the water, "....."

(alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) The first time I saw him, I thought he was going to be a little too close, but he just barely managed to grab me by the arm.

Instead, I had to let go of the doll that I had been holding that looked like my husband, but I couldn't care less.

I feel bad if I run into someone, but this is clearly higher on the priority list.

The overhead-addressed Daichi has his eyes closed and may be unconscious.

If she only held on to the arm, her face would be submerged in the water, so Akiharu managed to put Daichi's arm around her neck while struggling with her unstable position.

Then Shikikagami's voice came from behind me, urgent and urgent.

Excuse me, I'm getting out!

"No, no! If you drown now, I won't be able to save you, and first of all, there's no way I'm leaving you like that!

But Mr. Daichi is at

"All right, you hold on to Daichi so it doesn't fall."

As he says this, he glances to the side and sees his roommate's profile at close range.

Normally sober and imposing, her face was drenched in water and her breathing was calm, but she seemed unconscious.

The water is very difficult to swim with Shikikagami, who can easily cause a secondary disaster if left unattended.

Even now, I'm struggling just to swim so that I don't get swept away by the waves.

In addition, compared to the dolls, they have less buoyancy, and you have to hold your face above the surface of the water to keep your breathing under control, which makes them even more difficult to handle.

I told Shikikagami so, but now I have to ask for help or have him stop the waves or I might get in trouble.

However, there were no other students in the vicinity at first glance, and if there were, they were probably occupied with their own lives.

Thinking this, Akiharu looked at the side of the pool and saw ".....".

I looked at him and swallowed down the voice I was about to make.

Her emotionless facial expression is the same as usual, but her eyes are staring at me as if she is watching my every move with a level of seriousness that is several times greater than usual.

The fact that Fukayoshi, who is aware of our situation, is not moving means that he is still in a position to do something about it.

Or because they believe that they can do something about it.

There's no shame in giving up even if you understand that, but I couldn't help but feel like I wanted to try a little bit more, just a little bit more.

Of course, human lives are at stake, so I cannot overreach and put Daichi and Shikikagami in a dangerous situation.

If that's the case, you should be able to leave that decision to the maid teacher.

If you really can't, then they will help you without hesitation.

I was forced to take all kinds of crazy classes, but I was convinced that this was the one thing I could be sure of.

You sure don't make it easy to give up, do you!

A smile appears on his mouth.

I know I may have a lot of doubts about how much I am straining myself, but since I am being so stubborn, I should at least smile at the beginning of my speech.

Then Akiharu looked at Daichi's face with his eyes closed once more, and together with Shikikagami on his back, he reconfirmed the reason why he was doing everything he could: "Shikikagami, I leave Daichi's affairs to you! I'm going to concentrate on swimming, and you..."

Yes, I got it! I may not be able to help you at all, but I'm good at cheering and holding on!

The words that came back cheerfully, and the Shikikagami smiled deeply, saying that the Shikikagami is like the Shikikagami, no matter how far they go.

◆◇ "..... ◇.....?"

A small moaning voice made Akiharu involuntarily peek at the bed and open his eyelids, and his eyes met those of Daichi, who was looking at him with a faint smile.

"Oh, did you notice that? How are you feeling?"

".....?"

Daichi's eyes glaze over, as if he is not yet clearly aware of our call.

She has a very neutral face, and if she is careless like this, she looks like a woman, which is not very good.

I'm not sure if it's the same sex, but I feel like I'm going to feel strange if I keep seeing her at such a close distance, so I pull myself away and sit on the chair beside the bed.

(alt: Even though he was a person of the same sex, it seemed like he would get a strange feeling if he kept looking at her from too close a distance, so Akiharu pulled herself back and sat down on the chair that was placed next to the bed.) Daichi, who had been gazing at us in a daze, lazily got up with a sleepy expression on his face, looked around vaguely, and then said, "..... This place is...? ...?"

It's the infirmary. Class has been over for a while now, and dinner will be ready in an hour or so.

"Why am I sleeping in a place like this?"

As Daichi was still not understanding the situation, holding his forehead with his hand and muttering to himself, Akiharu decided to give him a brief explanation of the situation.

"Do you remember your class at the pool?"

"..... Oh."

(alt: "..... Oh") You lost your mind on the way there. So I brought you here under the direction of Deep quiet."

"Did I drown and Hino save me?"

"Ah, well, just in case. I was a little surprised that we actually had to perform a rescue operation, and I was in a bit of a hurry. And as for the cause of my collapse, it seems to be accumulated fatigue and lack of sleep.

"....."

The public health doctor was absent for a business trip in the afternoon, so Dr. Hajime Hasegawa examined the patient.

The result was almost as expected, so Akiharu wasn't too surprised, while Daichi turned her head down, biting her lip as if she had just revealed a fact she didn't want to be revealed.

Suddenly, as if she had just noticed something, she put her hand on her chest, and in a panic, she crawled into the comforter.

..... was very quick, but what the heck is this behavior?

I don't think he hit his head, but he must still be in a daze. As Akiharu frowns, Daichi's face emerges from the futon that is tightly wrapped around his body, his face turning bright red and glaring at us, "Huh, my clothes, why are my clothes"

What? What are you saying that your clothes are different?"

Yes! You're supposed to be in uniform, but what kind of is this?

You can't put a wet rat to bed, can you?"

We carried them to the infirmary without changing their clothes, but it was only natural to change them because they would get wet on the beds and might catch a cold.

Since she did not have time to bring a change of clothes to the dormitory, she instead wore the training wear that Akiharu had left in the classroom for use in physical education.

If you wake up in your workout clothes instead of your butler's uniform, of course someone will know you've changed.

"No way, Hino, you're the one who's going to"

However, the reaction of Daichi is a bit excessive.

Why do I have to react like I do when I find out that the murderer of my lover is my own brother, just for a change of clothes?

While thinking, "He's still an interesting guy in unexpected places," Akiharu waves his hand to the side.

It wasn't me, it was Fukagan.

"..... by Prof. Fukaba? Is that true?"

Oh." I told them I would do it, but they didn't listen to me at all, saying, 'I'll do it.

While saying so, Akiharu secretly sympathizes.

It must have been a shock to have such a beautiful teacher take off your underwear without your knowledge.

I'm sure you don't mind because you have a strong sense of duty, but if I were in your shoes, I would want to die of embarrassment when I woke up.

(alt: He has a strong sense of duty, so he probably doesn't care, but if he were in Daichi's position, he'd be embarrassed and want to die.) Todoroki would probably be pleased, or perhaps lament that he didn't wake up in the middle of the day, but he doesn't have the right kind of nerve to be helpful.

I wasn't in the infirmary until after I was done with some stuff and Fukagan came out. You're not getting any tricks or anything, are you? I don't care if it's Kaede, the bonkers board president and useless clerk, but it's Fukagan, so even if she's the same sex, she's a beautiful boy who might be easily attracted to you. It's not like that serious female teacher would do something lewd like that. No, but that "I'll definitely do it!"

The aura of "I'm not sure if it's, but let's not think too much about it.

(alt: That aura might be..... Yeah, let's not think too much about it.) I was kicked out of the infirmary, so I went to the locker room, showered and changed, and came back. I should have brought your change of uniform with me while I was there.

"..... But that's not the point. You really haven't seen Hino, have you?"

I told you I didn't see it. "I didn't see them," she said. "Oh, and the clothes you were wearing were packed up and taken somewhere, so ask her about them when you thank her later.

"..... so, or"

(alt: "..... Really.....") Daichi closed his eyes as if squeezing the words out of the depths of his heart.

I know I seemed relieved, but was it my imagination or was there a slight sense of disappointment at? Well, whatever the case, I'm glad to hear that he seems to have calmed down.

Now we can get down to business.

It would have been a little embarrassing if other people heard about it, so I wanted to finish it before Fukayoshi came back.

Akiharu approached the bed from his chair and looked at Daichi's face again.

Her small face, which befits her petite frame, is better than it was before her collapse, but she is still a little pale.

It may be because the water cooled them down, but there must be a more fundamental problem.

I told you yesterday, don't do too much.

"....."

I'm not going to get too deep into your problems, but I'm still worried about you. I know I'm probably not the best person to help you, and I may not be able to help you at all, but if you collapse, it's kind of troubling."

'..... bad. I don't intend to cause Hino any trouble.

(alt: ".....I'm sorry.) Biting her lip and looking away, Daichi says such a thing.

The important part was not conveyed at all.

He's an unavoidable guy," said Akiharu, smiling at his roommate, "there's nothing wrong with a little inconvenience or two. I've received a lot of help from you, so this kind of thing is mutual, right?"

"....., but I'm"

(alt: "... but I...") It's rather hard for me that someone close to me is having a hard time without my being able to help. That's what I meant when I said I was troubled. Let me help you a little before you force yourself to the point of collapse.

If this were just a classmate, I wouldn't even mention it here, but we're facing the same student and roommate, Daichi.

I think of him as my best friend, an important fellow student with whom I will work hard together, while taking care of each other and occasionally fighting with each other, until we graduate.

Daichi always gives off the impression that he doesn't want me to get involved, but since he even collapsed during class, I can't just read the situation and act like I know what's going on.

..... Well, yeah, it's out of character, so it's pretty embarrassing, but I guess that can't be helped, right?

It's not in my nature to sit back and watch while my dear friend is being driven to this point.

I am sure this kind of meddling must be annoying.

But she has no intention of stopping, and her own self-satisfaction makes Akiharu want to laugh.

Anyway.

I'm not going to tell you anything. I'll leave some dinner on the table for you, so rest easy and get some rest.

It was right after he collapsed, so it was probably best to leave it at that for today.
If we put too much pressure on them, we will lose our chance.

And because I was under the weather and then got into the water, my face is a little flushed, and I think I may be starting to run a fever."

"..... Ah."

(alt: "..... ah") I put my hand on Daichi's forehead and found that he was still a little hot.
The eyes that look up at me are somewhat mournful.

"What do you want me to do? If you're thirsty, should I get you some water? And that's it. If you're sweating, I'll wipe it off.

"Oh, no, you don't have to do that."

..... is one of those times when you don't have to be shy."

Personally, I would like to take care of her as much as I can, but she has refused with all her might, so I guess it's none of my business to say more.

The way she is holding her chest and the embarrassed expression on her face as she blushes is strangely sexy.

He's got a very neutral appearance, and if you put him in a boys' school now, there would be a lot of guys who would wake up to that kind of hobby, don't you think? And I'm pretty useless for even thinking of such a thing.

What does it mean to be nervous with a male partner while being in Hakuryo, the women's garden?

He scratched his head and said, "Then, I'm going to report that you woke up, just in case.

Mikan was at the president's office, so I had to go there first, and then call the dormitory and ask for supper.

I'm very tired, so I'd like to just lie down on an empty bed, but I've shaken off this naive feeling and got up from the chair and took a gamble.

I felt a slight tug on my sleeve, and I lifted my hips to look at my left arm.

As I expected, a small hand was holding the cuff of her morning coat, and her slender fingers were gripping it as if she would never let it go.

".....?"

(alt: 「..... ? 」) I called to see what was wrong, but received no immediate response.

In front of Akiharu, who could not grasp the situation, Daichi did not let go of the hand holding my clothes, but held my chest with the other hand and breathed out bitterly.

And then he twisted his lips like he'd taken a bitter pill and looked up at me with a feverish yet powerful look in his eyes and said, "I have something important to tell you and I want you to listen."

He said this in a muffled voice, as if he had gathered all the determination he could muster.
I have something important to tell you. Listen, I need you to listen.

(alt: "I have something important to tell you... I want you to listen.") The fact that such words came out of her own mouth upset Kaoru Daichi at least a little.

While lying on the bed, she is wrapped in a very tight training wear that does not belong to her, with her hand on her chest and her other hand gripping the sleeve of her roommate Akiharu Hino.

It was never my intention to do so, and once I had done so, I was filled with wonder as to why I had done what I did to stall them.

Hino, who was about to get up from his chair, looked at me somewhat curiously.

It was quite sudden and out of the blue, and Kaoru herself had no intention of saying such a line, so it was understandable that she was confused.

Now "It's good after all. I'm not going to do that one."

Hino will probably back off if I say, "I'm sorry, but I don't think I can do that."

(alt: If I said that, Hino would probably pull over.) They should not be forced to ask you just because they are curious.

But somewhere inside of me, I realize that I've reached my limit.

I can't tell you everything, but I can tell you about the thoughts I've accumulated in less than ten days that seem to be overflowing from my chest. Even if I don't tell you today, they will probably break down within a few days.

(alt: I can't say everything, but... nevertheless, about the feelings I've accumulated in the last ten days, to the point where they're about to overflow from the depths of my heart... Maybe even if I don't say them today, , will collapse within a few days.) Considering what had happened up until yesterday, it was more like a certainty than a premonition, and Kaoru's memory was a blur.

The day before the day of the swimming pool, at dawn, when the education class was held, may be no good anymore.

Kaoru was so driven that she even thought about it.

I don't like to be whiny.

It's good to admit your weaknesses, but you have to work on overcoming them every day.

I felt that if I spoke out in a weak voice, I would be spoiled by the situation.

When she was training in the countryside, her grandfather often spoke of similar lessons, and Kaoru herself did not like being weak, so she had put up with it until now unless there was something more serious..... But had gone beyond the level of what could be done with patience and was now on the brink.

I went out with Tatsu Hino the other day.

On the way home, Oka said something to Kaoru that stuck deeply in her mind and has not left her.

"Because Daichi, you like Hino-kun, don't you?"

Naturally, I denied it on the spot, and Kaoru herself wants to believe that it is not true....., but no matter how much I deny it or how much I keep shouting that it is not true, the question arises as to what is really going on.

I tried to do zazen, recalling my training with my grandfather, thinking that if I unify my mind, my thoughts would disappear and my worries would also disappear. But it was still no good.

(alt: If I unify my mind, all distractions will disappear, and even my worldly desires will disappear.) I was so lost in my thoughts that I reached a point of selflessness, but then I immediately thought of Hino's voice and Oka's line. I know it's an excuse, but if it wasn't someone living in the same room with me, I would never have been so confused.

(alt: For a short while, my thoughts went blank and I reached the point of no-self, but then I immediately thought of Hino's voice and that line Oka had said to me. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been so deceived.) I always see him when I go back to my room after dinner.

I get strangely nervous just being alone with him, he talks to me even though I don't want to be aware of it, I'm in my underwear when I'm changing, I'm wearing light clothes after a bath, and I can hear him breathing in his sleep when I'm in agony because I can't sleep.! After months of living the same life together, they were just getting used to living together. One word was all it took for the whole thing to fall apart.

(alt: I get strangely nervous just by being alone with someone. If you were to be in agony without thinking, you would hear your breathing in your sleep...! Even though we had been living the same life for months, we should have gotten used to living together...with just one word, it fell apart.) "....."

(alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) Since the day of the double date, Kaoru had been unable to sleep well and was distraught at the mere sight of Hino, let alone talking to him.

My head feels dizzy from lack of sleep and tension, my body feels so heavy that I don't feel like it belongs to me, I make mistakes in class and in service activities, and I get scolded by Prof. Fukagan. I can't go on like this, but rather I can't keep going like this.

(alt: Lack of sleep and tension make my head dizzy, my body feels so heavy that it's hard to believe it belongs to me, and I make mistakes in class and volunteer activities, and Fukagawa-sensei scolds me... I just can't keep going... In other words, it won't last.) Both physically and mentally.

So we have to do something about it I agree, but more important than that is that we really do need to do something about it.

The question is, "What is the value of the company's business?"

It's about whether or not you really like Hino

..... I am

(alt: "..... I.....") I tried to convince myself that it should be different and that Oka must have just misunderstood, but days went by and I still couldn't find the right answer.

I could not at all see what I really thought about Hino.

I can hardly sleep, and I don't know what I see when I look at Hino sleeping like this.

(alt: He could barely sleep—I couldn't understand how Hino was sleeping like this.) It just makes you feel tight in the chest, hot, suffocated, and sad, and unstable.

This had never happened before that day.

Seeing Hino's face and hearing his voice may have brought me comfort, but I had never felt disturbed in such a negative way, unless something special happened.

So, why is it that we have such a... uh... ..?

Just as my thoughts were about to enter a loop, a small voice came out of Hino's sleeping mouth.

He wrinkled his brow slightly, then moved his body to get back under the covers as if he wanted to stay in bed, "..... .. hmm? ... morning"

Muttering, Hino squeezed her eyelids several times before opening her eyes and saying, "Huh ah?"

Kaoru, who was looking down at me, had her eyes on me.

I should have been asleep, but I was only in a daze for a short time.

Immediately his eyes widened, and for some reason he wiggled his mouth like a carp begging to be fed.

Seeing her roommate in such a state, Kaoru has a complex and indescribable feeling.
If I am so distressed, why does Hino have such a pleasant attitude from the time he wakes up from bed?

Really, really, why did I go to all this trouble for a guy like this? What the hell are you doing?

"..... I didn't do anything else."

(alt: ".....I haven't done anything.") "Just staring down at or that bed from the side is quite"

For some reason, Hino was mumbling in a weak tone towards the end, but Kaoru half-ignored it and turned to go to the bathroom.

In the end, I still don't have an answer, but it's hard to see Hino awake.

Hino was probably going to go out for his daily road work, but it was unlikely that he would be able to fall asleep again. She would have to kill time until breakfast somewhere, and then she would have to think if there was any clue, even if it was a small one, to solve this problem. With wandering feet, Kaoru went into the bathroom, working on her foggy head due to repeated lack of sleep. Kaoru wanders into the washroom with unsteady steps, trying to figure out if there's any clue to solve this problem, even if it's just a small one.

(alt: Hino will probably go out to do his daily routine, but it doesn't look like he'll be able to sleep in again... he'll have to kill time somewhere until breakfast... so he can solve this problem, even if it's just for a little while. Thinking about any clues... Kaoru staggered into the washroom while working her head, which had been drowsy due to repeated lack of sleep.) I washed my face with painfully cold water and left the room.

..... I realized I was still in my nightgown after leaving the dormitory and heading for the mountains.

Now, everyone, please get in the pool.

After Hino and Todoroki made some sort of commotion in response to Fukakan-sensei's instruction, Hino and Todoroki began to make a fuss.

Kaoru slowly entered the pool and, although she was surprised at how cold it was, she immersed herself in the water without any problems.

The temperature is still comfortable for me, given my experience in winter rivers during my training in the mountains.

It's so soothing to my burning body that it makes me want to close my eyes.

Kaoru was very concerned about Hino, probably because of what happened last night,....., but she didn't understand why he was so concerned about her.

Yesterday, I was feeling a little under the weather, and there were times when I had to show my faults, but not today.

The body that was heavy in the morning is now light as a lie, and the occasional headache has disappeared.

I feel my body temperature rising just a little, but it's nothing serious.

The mood is uplifted, and clothing that absorbs water and clings heavily to the body is barely a problem.

It's a mystery.

Even though I haven't solved my problems at all, swimming or even just getting dressed and getting in the pool is fun for some reason.

A smile appears on my face, and if I'm not careful, I might even break out into a song.

Kaoru thought it might be time to show a little restraint, so she went to

When he sees the doll floating in the center of the pool, his expression tightens.

Lately, I have had trouble concentrating in class and have even made mistakes in service projects.

Today is the time to stop being a pathetic figure in front of the students and instead set an example for the rest of the students to follow.? Is this the wave of

Just as Kaoru's inner fighting spirit was ignited, there was a change in the pool.

The calm surface of the water suddenly begins to ripple, and the waves become more violent instead of subsiding.

It happened to me a long time ago, but it must be hard for everyone else to go through this situation with a doll in their arms.

In fact, we could hear voices that sounded like screams coming from all over the place.

In such a situation, Kaoru swims calmly without panicking or making a fuss.

This is nothing compared to a river that has gained momentum after a heavy rainfall.

There is no risk of being struck by driftwood, and there is no danger of falling into the waterfall basin if you don't swim all the way to the bottom, so there is plenty of room.

While occasionally getting caught in the surf, Kaoru swims effortlessly to the center and grabs a rescued doll that happens to be floating by.

It is a little cumbersome for a man the size of a grown man to carry, but not too difficult.

And I don't know what the success was, but I'm on a roll right now.

(alt: Besides, I don't know what worked, but I'm doing great now.) It is hard to believe that you are underwater with clothes on, and you are so light that you should be able to swim through the water in no time and move on to resuscitation training.

With this in mind, Kaoru puts her arms around the doll's sides and swims without regard to the position in which she finds it difficult to move.

The indoor pool at Hakuryo is quite large and the waves are rough, but even so, I can clear it in a few tens of seconds.

Kaoru moves her body with a relaxed attitude to finish earlier than anyone else and to show Hino, who is a worrier, that she is okay. — How long did it take for her to realize that something was wrong?

She frowned at the sight of the poolside scenery, which was only slowly approaching even though she should have been swimming without rest, and then let out a puff of air, where Kaoru first noticed a discomfort.

"What's wrong with and"

The discomfort is further heightened by voicing the doubts that arise.

Why am I getting shortness of breath? I'm sure I have the physical strength, and with this kind of disadvantage, I can easily swim through about ten kilometers.

But there is something wrong with him that he is breathing so hard.

..... No, it's not just breathing that's strange.

My vision was somehow strangely distorted, and I was beginning to lose strength in my hand as I scratched the water.

"ooo first, then"

Once I became aware of this, my whole body suddenly felt heavy, as if something that had been dammed up was suddenly rushing in.

It's as if my hands and feet were bound with chains of lead balls. Specifically, it's as if I had taken a mild neurotoxin to make my body more resistant to the poison, and now I feel sluggish and numb, and my body doesn't do a thing.

(alt: It was as if my hands and feet were bound with a chain that had many lead balls connected to it... More specifically, I felt lethargic and numb, just like when I drank a light neurotoxin to make my body resistant to the poison. My body doesn't speak at all.) But you should never have had the chance to taste the poison.

There is no way I could have missed a meal at the Baili Ling, and the sudden onset of intense sleepiness can't be explained by neurotoxicity.

If so, what in the world is going on at? "Ho, ho, ho."

Kaoru was so distracted by thinking about the cause that she was hit in the face by the wave, and coughed up the water she was about to drink.

Normally, this would never happen.

..... No, it shouldn't.

The thought that you might not even finish the swim if you are not good enough, let alone complete the task with enough time to spare, is too much to bear.

Kaoru bites her back teeth and moves her arms and legs with great effort.

However, I don't feel like I'm making any progress at all.

On top of that, my whole body is complaining of fatigue, and the temptation to give up and go back to sleep is building up, even though I'm underwater and can't get my feet under me.

Even so, we are still reeling in a very thin string, swimming by sheer willpower. If we relax even a little, we are likely to lose control of our bodies in the blink of an eye.

(alt: It's like I'm just pulling in a thin thread and somehow trying to swim with just my energy... if I let my guard down even just a little, I'm afraid I'll lose all my freedom of movement in no time.)

"....., this is, this is"

(alt: "..... tsu..... It's like this.....!") It should be a hopeless situation, and yet, if I just loosen the reins a little, I'm lured into the most comfortable sleep I've ever experienced, only to find myself wandering aimlessly and unable to think at all.

The first thing that comes to mind is the fact that the two of them have been in the same boat for a long time, but they've been in the same boat for a long time.

Kaoru looked at her shoulder with her eyes, which had been almost closed, and said, "Yeah,, the big land! What the hell?

Tēm, the voice in your ears, mixed with coughing and water sounds, is the voice of your roommate, which you hear every day.

Kaoru notices this and says, "..... Hi?

I almost reflexively muttered the name of the other party, and then I went to ◆ ◇- — Now that I've heard Hino's explanation, I can understand what happened.

In other words, I felt close to Hino, and that made me feel relieved.

There is no evidence anywhere to support this, and yet, "Oh, we're going to be all right.

I guess I let go of my consciousness because I thought, "I can't do this.

I am so ashamed of what I have done that I want to fall asleep under the covers right now.

Or I want to hide in a deep cave and live in seclusion for about three months until everyone's memories fade.

Because, instead of showing that you can handle the class without difficulty, you end up causing trouble for Hino, which is the opposite of the worst possible outcome. If people are structurally designed to die of embarrassment, then I am surely dead.

(alt: After all, instead of appealing that it's okay to complete the class without difficulty, it's the exact opposite of causing trouble to Hino, the worst result... It's structurally designed so that people die of embarrassment. If you are, you are definitely dead.) I don't know how many times I can die.

(alt: I don't know how many times I can die.) And what I find most disappointing is that we could have at least gotten out of the pool if we had given it our all without thinking about the consequences.

It may be painful for a while due to a muscle injury, but you should have done it for the right reasons.

..... And yet, that's the way it is.

There is nothing we can do.

I would like to curl up in a ball and go back to the countryside and start my training all over again.

Let's see... Big Earth? The important story is"

I'm sorry. I was just trying to get my thoughts together.

(alt: "I-I'm sorry. Um, I was trying to gather my thoughts.") Hino's reserved voice calls out to Kaoru, and she hurriedly makes her excuses.

Then I took a deep breath and let the oxygen I had just taken in, along with my determination and resolve, flow through my entire body.

I am the worst, the worst, the worst.

In this situation, we will not be able to graduate safely, but we will be dragging Hino and everyone else down with us.

That's why we have to settle the matter properly.

Now that I understand, after being beaten down in this way, that there is no longer any limit to just worrying that there is no way I can talk about it,....., it is even more impossible not to say anything at all.

Kaoru herself is unable to make a decision, and her thoughts are so overflowing that she wonders where they are coming from.

Since Oka pointed this out to me after our date the other night, I've been feeling so overwhelmed that I can't even sleep or concentrate properly.

She took another deep breath, and then opened her lips a little.

I am not sure if I will be able to communicate well at It would be helpful if you wouldn't be so appalled."

(alt: "... To be honest, I don't know if I can convey it well. Um... it would be helpful if you wouldn't be so shocked.") I'm not stunned or anything. I'm not going to be appalled. I'm going to take whatever you have to say seriously.

I think the reason Hino smiled a little while saying this was to make it easier for us to talk to him.

The face is somewhat frightening in its construction, but in this way it is very thoughtful and kind.

..... I'm getting extra nervous.

I told myself to calm down and stay calm, but my heart did not listen to me at all.

I don't care what the theory is about involuntary muscles, I really wish they would quiet down, even if only for now.

She squeezes the hand that had been resting on her chest, looks down at her and then looks up again, looking straight at Hino.

I'm so embarrassed to say this that I'm afraid I'm going to die, and I'm worried that my face will start to steam, but Kaoru still doesn't look away.

I tried my best to suppress my desire to run away, thinking that to retreat from this situation was the same as losing.

And then, with all the courage I could muster from my parched throat, I said, "I think I might have found someone I like and"

I put my whole heart and soul into it and was finally able to say that much.

Immediately, a completely different kind of embarrassment begins to rise up.

I feel like covering myself with a futon right now at the thought of Hino seeing my face, which is hot to the ears and as red as a ripe apple.

With a storm of regret and just a little bit of a sense of accomplishment in her heart, Kaoru looks for her roommate's reaction.

I haven't taken my eyes off Hino, but for some reason, the information I see in my mind's eye doesn't enter my mind, and I can only vaguely grasp what kind of face he has on.

Hino, who was quite nervous about the confirmation, said, "W-wait a minute, that's, that's a big deal, isn't it,?"

The expression on his face was very subtle, as if he was either laughing or confused.

Moreover, his comments are so far off the mark that I feel like I've been let down.

Not at all celebratory, and definitely "someone I like."

The response is that they don't have the slightest idea that the "Mere Old Man" might be talking about them.

This is what makes Kaoru so angry, but since she can't reveal that she's actually a woman, it would certainly be a problem if she were to find out, so she holds back the complaints and frustrations that keep welling up.

Depending on how you look at it, this should not be a bad start.

Gently lowering the hand on her chest to her knee, Kaoru slowly shook her head, acting out her usual cool self, even if only on the surface.

It's not something to be celebrated. As I said, I don't even know if it's true.

(alt: "It's not something that can be celebrated. Just like I said 'maybe', I don't know if it's really true...") What level are we talking about? Is it that you have feelings for me, but you don't want to be in a relationship with me? Or...

"Yes, it means I don't know if I like you as a heterosexual or if you're a special friend!"

(alt: "I-I don't know if I like you as the opposite sex or if it's a special friend!") Before Hino could say it again, I said it myself.

I am not good at this kind of story.

I feel as if I don't fit in, or that I'm out of character, or that my whole body itches when I talk to them.

But in order to face the problem head-on, it is inevitable, so Kaoru resisted the urge to run away right now after knocking Hino down and knocking her out, and looked into her roommate's face with a slightly upward glance, "I mean, I'm having trouble deciding whether I really, totally like that person, or not.

That's a tough problem to solve. Well, it's not hard to understand.

(alt: "That's another difficult problem.... Well, I don't understand it either.") For some reason, he says this in a strangely heavy tone.

His expression was somewhat bitter, and it was hard to believe that he was a stranger to the situation.

I am curious about it, but I am at a loss to decide whether it is appropriate to inquire about it in depth.

It's not good to suddenly digress from a discussion you're having with someone, but it's "not hard to understand.

So, maybe, just maybe, Hino will say, "Well, for now, the problem is..."

What's

While Kaoru was wondering whether she should go or not, the conversation was going on, and when Kaoru hurriedly replied, "Well, if you like the other person, what are you going to do if that's the case? Are you going to confess your feelings and go out with him?

The "country! Of course you haven't thought of that! I'm trying to figure out what to do before that!

"But if you're not going to confess to me, or if you don't want to be a little more open-minded about getting to know me better, then isn't it the same whether I know if I like you or not?"

"....."

The words were so far-fetched that for a moment I felt my blood rush to my head, but then he continued and I regained my composure.

..... Hino certainly has a point.

I admit that.

However, "Even if the relationship does not develop, this is an issue that needs to be considered and a conclusion reached."

"So..."? I'm sorry, I was a little too quick to answer.

"..... No need to apologize."

(alt: "... you don't have to apologize") It was a simple idea that might be solved if I could figure out what I wanted to do. Then Daichi won't be trapped like this.

He scratches the back of his head as if blaming himself, but his concern is very clear.

So, as Kaoru, I am happy for that alone, and I feel sorry for her.

Perhaps Hino's idea is not wrong.

They just don't see the fundamental problem.

..... You can't be serious about living in the same room with someone you may or may not like and actually lying about your gender.

Otherwise, maybe, but I wouldn't be so distressed either.

You should have taken more time to answer the question.

It's not that it can't be helped because they don't know, but it was a pinpoint attack on a sensitive issue that cannot be answered well.

It's also kind of upsetting because the guy at the center of the problem is asking questions that he doesn't think are at all relevant to him.

(alt: And since the guy at the center of the problem asks me this question thinking it has nothing to do with him at all, it's kind of disgusting.) I'm sure he's feeling close to vindictive, but who does this man think is responsible for all this suffering?

Kaoru covers her eyes with her hands and sighs in frustration.

Then, wondering whether it was wrong to consult Hino after all, he said in a quiet tone, "It would have been wrong to consult Hino.

..... If Hino is right and we really like them, we need to think about what to do about it. But right now, that's not the issue.

(alt: "... As Hino said, if you really like her, you'll have to come up with a countermeasure.) "Oh, I understand. But whether it's true or not, you know, it's not that easy to make it black and white."

I guess that's why I'm having a hard time too."

I can't hide the fact that I'm angry with him, and my tone is a little harsh.

I immediately reflected on the fact that a consultant with this kind of attitude should have been given up on, but Hino did not seem to be offended at all, and was touching the safety pin in his right ear.

It's a habit that often comes out when I'm lost in thought or bored.

Apparently, they are thinking seriously about it.

"Well, you know generally speaking, jealousy, possessiveness like you don't want to be taken away by some other guy, those are the things that help you make a decision."

Hearing her voice, which sounded more like she was talking to herself than offering advice, Kaoru reflected on the situation in earnest.

I knew Hino was a good guy and it made me feel a bit uneasy.

I'd feel a lot better if he told me he liked me... No, you still don't know for sure whether you really like me or not, and you haven't cleared up the most important issue, so why are you thinking so fast?! It's not to list the good and bad points of the other party. If you fall in love with someone, even if they are a little bit bad, it won't matter or even be a point of fun. is a big place? Why are you scratching your head?"

"....., nothing."

(alt: "... nothing, nothing.") ".....?"

The answer was met with blatant disbelief.

Kaoru glares at Hino and asks, "Don't you have a better idea than that? Like a reagent, if she reacts like this, you could ask her some useful questions like that would let her know that you have romantic feelings for her."

Perhaps it was because I was in such a tight situation, but I ended up saying things that even I thought were absurd.

However, if there is such a question, I really want Hino to tell me right away, and I should be able to regain my composure while he is thinking about it.

Trying to calm down while she still can, Kaoru closes her eyes and tries to get her mind right, "If I had something like that, I wouldn't be in trouble either.

The voice that came out of the room easily broke my concentration.

For a moment, you don't understand the meaning of what is being said, and you are tempted to let it slide.

But then I immediately thought, "Maybe this guy has the same kind of problems I do.

His eyes widened with surprise when he realized that he had been there.

Then I saw Hino's face contorting her mouth bitterly as she turned over, and she seemed to notice my gaze. Don't worry about it.

He made an outrageous and unreasonable statement.

That is absolutely impossible.

If I could just nod my head and forget about it, I wouldn't have had to spend sleepless nights until I collapsed from poor health.

While sitting on the bed, Kaoru moved her body to get closer to Hino and said, "..... Come on, you can't tell me that you don't believe me. What did you mean when you said that?

When I questioned him, feeling thirsty with nervousness, he pulled his body back and subtly averted his gaze, as if he was pressured.

No, it's more like this is my problem, and it's not that big of a deal.

(alt: "No, I don't know... This is my problem, and it's not a big deal...") If it's no big deal, fine, talk about it. It's not fair of me to be the only one who's

What?" Because you said you wanted me to listen."

Enough of your nonsense, talk to me at!

I think I am being too forceful, but I cannot retreat.

If you can listen to that kind of semantics and then silently backtrack, then maybe you "might be into the opposite sex."

I should not be so worried about it.

Yes, so it's not wrong to ask.

After the self-affirmation was complete, Kaoru looked at Hino with a determination that would make a starving African leopard shrink and become immobile, and said again, "I'm not going to let you do this to me.

Hino says it's his problem, but maybe he can help me solve some of the problems I'm having.

..... Well, maybe. In my case, it's really not that big a deal.

(alt: "... Well, maybe. In my case, it's really not a big deal.") He scratched his head and let out a small sigh.

While Kaoru watches with suppressed expectation, wondering if she has succeeded in persuading her roommate, the roommate with poor eyesight opens her mouth with a somewhat tired expression on her face.

I guess it would be fine if you suddenly develop romantic feelings for someone, but I don't have much of that kind of thing. So we naturally become acquaintances, then friends, and then we get to know each other through a series of stages.

..... So?"

WATCH: So, that's it. If you have multiple female friends who you think are equally good friends, and before you know it, you're more conscious of them as women, it would be troublesome."

"What a pain in the ass! What does that conclusion mean?

The story should have been easy to understand, but the last line of the film was so bad.

As Kaoru was shocked, Hino, perhaps sensing her concern, shook his head as if to deny something and said, "Well, we were getting along well as friends, weren't we? But when your awareness of the other person changes,....., things that used to be easy to do without worrying become strangely awkward,.....

..... it is it is

(alt: 「.....That is.....That means.....」) When you put it that way, I can sympathize somewhat.

I am sure that I am no different, and things have not gone as smoothly as they used to.

But no.

What should be noted is something else.

Hino's comments were even more problematic than before, and were impossible to ignore.

Kaoru, who had noticed this, was afraid to ask, but she did, "Hi, does Hino have someone she likes?"

..... After I asked the question, I was filled with tremendous regret.

Hino looked at me with her shoulders shaking for a moment as if she was surprised, but if she was upset, Kaoru was more upset.

What in the world am I talking about?

If you do get an answer, what are you going to do about it?

Kaoru feels so bad that she wants to turn back the clock because she couldn't control herself and asked the question out of curiosity, but it's not like she's going back in time.

I looked at Hino with determination, determined to listen to him and not be fooled by him.

Come on, come on. As long as you are consulting with me, Hino should be open about it.!
(alt: "Be clear. If you're going to take my advice, Hino should talk openly...!") "Well, I understand that, but it's just, you know,"

It's not so much that I'm not clear, but that I'm not at my wits' end.

The way they fidgeted with the safety pin also made us more irritated.

I was thinking, "Maybe I'm just like Daichi," and I had a disturbing thought, "Maybe I should remove a shoulder joint or two so I can talk more easily.

".....!"

(alt: 「.....!？」) Kaoru was almost startled when Hino suddenly said something like that.

I'm not sure if what you just said is "the same".

(alt: What you said just now could be... 'the same') That's because "is the same as me."
Does this mean that?

When I asked her who she liked, she was clearly upset.

Maybe she meant she was surprised when the person she was interested in asked her who she liked.! This means that maybe Hino, like Daichi, hasn't made up her mind yet.

(alt: Did that mean that you were surprised when your crush asked you who you liked...!? In other words, maybe Hino is like Daichi, and he doesn't have a clear set of feelings within himself.) "..... そうか"

(alt: "..... Really") The words violently disappoint her expectations, and she barely manages to reply, her shoulders slumped.

..... Or rather, what were they expecting? It's impossible for Hino, who recognizes us as men, to think that he might possibly like her.

As Kaoru hung her head in shame, feeling even more depressed than before, Hino spoke to her, as if he had not noticed our situation.

I'm so occupied with my life at Hakuryo (.....) that I never thought about making a girlfriend and going out with her, even if it was just to hang out with someone for a while.

"But you have a girl you're interested in, don't you Hino?"

I'm just going to say, "Uh,, well, yeah, that's right. I mean, I'm not trying to make excuses, but isn't it normal to have a girl or two you're attracted to?"

It's called ".....! Is that right? And you're all just going along with it?"

What Kaoru was told as a matter of course came as a bolt from the blue to her.

How can they be suffering so much, while I am suffering so much?

Perhaps they are all more mentally mature than I am.

I am sure I can handle most things with practice, but this hurdle is too high, and I am afraid I will become ill or neurotic before I have the strength to overcome it.

When Kaoru was shocked to find that her classmates, whom she had grown so accustomed to, seemed like monsters out of bounds, she said, "I don't know if they're calm or not, though. I don't know if they're calm or not, but wait, this might be the crux of the matter.

(alt: When Kaoru was stunned by the fact that the classmates she was used to were like monsters out of the ordinary, she said, "I don't know if they're calm or not. I don't know.")

Hino muttered something meaningful and nodded his head as if to reconfirm something.

As Kaoru was becoming unsure of what to believe, she grabbed Hino's arm as if clinging to him and asked in a thin voice, "What is it that you want me to believe?"

If you know something, please tell us. It's a matter of life and death.

That's a bit of an exaggeration.

Hino's mouth falls open lightly, though I don't think he's joking in the slightest, and he says, "Let's put me aside for the moment, but Daichi has created enough trouble with this guy to keep you awake, right?"

"..... Oh."

(alt: "..... Oh") (alt: "..... Oh") If she's that deeply troubled by it, it probably means that she likes him as an object of romantic interest. It's not every night that you have trouble sleeping, but it's not every night that you lose sleep for a week or more.

....., but in my case things are a little more complicated.

(alt: "... But in my case, things are a little more complicated...") I don't know what your situation is, but it doesn't usually bother me that much. If a student in the obedience program were to get into a relationship with an upperclassman, and then get into big trouble and get caught, he or she would have to be expelled from school.

(alt: "I don't know what the circumstances are, but they usually don't worry about it that much. If a junior high school student goes out with an upper secondary school student and ends up causing a big problem and finds out, they drop out of school. , you're not that weak, are you?")

It's not that far off in the sense that if you get caught, you will be expelled from school.

However, it would have to be if the identity, not the feelings, were to be revealed, and if the parents were to hear about it.

Just go to and see if Hino is right.

It means that I really like Hino, not because I'm mistaken or crazy, but because I really like Hino.

Not as friends, but as opposites.

I am special not because we are best friends, but because I have a special fondness for you.

He may look a little tough, but he saved my life when I collapsed, stood by me until I woke up, and even asked me who I liked.

He is a kind and gentle roommate, who can not touch such a sensitive part of the ".....".

"Hmm? What's the matter, Daichi? Are you dizzy?"

"..... nothing, not"

(alt: "..... nothing.....!") Kaoru suddenly leans forward and buries her face in the sheets, and Hino says the most misguided things to her.

But I can't honestly tell them why.

That is absolutely impossible.

If I thought again that I liked this man in front of me, there is no way I could say that I was too embarrassed to look at him.! I'm not sure I can say that I'm too embarrassed to look him in the face.

(alt: Once again--I thought I liked this man in front of me, but I was so embarrassed that I couldn't even look at his face. Damn, Kaoru whispered inside her mouth and bit her lip in itching.) One problem may have been solved, but nothing fundamental has been resolved.

I was rather more nervous than before, and wondered if I would be able to live a normal life from now on.

Also at

The creaking anxiety that had been building up inside me had vanished, and a warm feeling had spread through my heart.

I think it's a good thing that I discovered that these feelings were due to my first love

But then, "..... even if I like the guy..."

Kaoru pulls off the sheet and murmurs quietly while keeping her face down.

As I said before, it's very unlikely that the relationship will develop. So what do you think I should do about"?

Does that mean I can't confess?

Yeah, I can't.

When I told him clearly, I heard a sighing sound from Hino, who was standing beside me for some reason and said, "I see. Most guys would have accepted Daichi's confession, but it seems a little too good to be true.

(alt: For some reason, I heard a sigh from Hino next to me when I told him, "Is that so... if Daichi confessed, most people would accept it, so it feels a bit wasteful. Na") Têm, you have said the unthinkable by surprise.

It may be a casual comment, but Kaoru doesn't see it that way.

What you just said, in other words, could it be, "Does Hino think that if I confess to him, he'll go out with me?"

"Hmm? Ah, well, yes, that's right. As long as you don't already have a partner you like, or a relationship with, or a special hobby, you should be able to get along with most of them.

Is it really?"

Even though she thought she was being persistent, Kaoru still couldn't help but ask.

I know I'm not a man who flatter people, even though I know in my head that I don't mean it in the way I expect it to be said.

I can believe in myself a little if Hino gives me his seal of approval.

I am convinced that my physical fitness and skills are superior to those of other students, and my communication skills have improved to a certain extent.

Since Hino considers himself a man, I can't judge his attractiveness as a woman: or it's useless to expect it in the first place. but it may be safe to assume that he is at least attractive as a human being.

(alt: Hino thinks of himself as a man, so he can't discern what makes him attractive as a woman. You may think that there is.) If I can gain even the slightest bit of confidence, if I can be proud that Hino approves of me, then I feel that I can continue to live my life at the academy with a little more ease and without running off the rails.

So with hope in her heart, Kaoru looked up and straight into her roommate's eyes.

Hino, who was sitting very close to me, smiled a mischievous smile that he only shows once in a while and said, "Oh, seriously. If I were a woman, I would go out with him without hesitation if he confessed to me.

The words of the man who was in the house were far more than I expected and hoped for, and he gave me the final blow.

A little bit of courage would have been enough, but instead of stopping there, they decided to break the levee and clean away all unnecessary fetters and ties.

But it's difficult, isn't it? Even if I like him, I can't confess to him.

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) But you can't just dismiss it so easily because you're so worried about it., right? Hey, Daichi?

For the first time today, Kaoru hears a voice asking her a concerned question, but she is unable to respond.

It was like my head was painted white, and I felt like I was on the verge of a reverse spiral. "..... Hino"

"Oh, oh? What?"

I've called them names, but I'm still not in a position to think straight.

But - that's why there are things that I understand.

What do I want to do? I had forgotten everything, including my future life and the bet I made with my father that I would attend and graduate from Hakuryo as a man.

Therefore, I gently touched Hino, who was looking at me with a frown, with my hand on the bed, as if covering it from above.

Then Kaoru slowly turns to face her love and says, "I don't know when it's going to happen yet, but I think I'm going to confess."

(alt: Then Kaoru slowly moved her face to the person she was thinking of-- "I still don't know when the day will come, but... I'm thinking of confessing.") He said the words of oath.

Hino's eyes fluttered, probably because he wasn't expecting it, and he said, "....., uh,, a change of policy? Why the sudden change again?"

Because that's what I wanted to do. I can't do it right now, but someday, I will."

Kaoru herself does not yet know when that time will come.

No matter how late it is, I will tell you when I graduate from Hakuryo.

I don't know if this feeling will last until that day or not, but I will definitely confess my feelings to her as a final step.

(alt: I don't know if this feeling will continue until that day, but I will definitely confess as a point of reference.) If not, then they will be disemboweled or shaved and become nuns.

I am ashamed that if I don't have that level of preparedness, I will be frightened when push comes to shove.

(alt:If I don't have that kind of resolve, I feel ashamed of myself for feeling like I'm going to falter when the time comes.) But I am such a pathetic person.

I want to grow up, become more feminine, and gain confidence.

And most of all, when this affection I have for Hino grows big enough for me to give it all I have, I'll tell him.

Tell them that you are a woman and apologize for deceiving them.

Then, I'm going to confess that I'm in love with you and I can't help it.

If I get rejected, I'll go back to and punch Hino in the face for what he said earlier.

That's how much they deserved.

I will make you rue the day you ever played with a woman's heart and made her like you until you couldn't stop.! "....., are you thinking of something scary?"

It's all in my head.

Kaoru then puts a smile on her face.

I felt strangely refreshed.

Perhaps I was too depressed or excited, but now I feel strangely calm.

Perhaps that's why I feel sleepy, as if I'm trying to catch up on yesterday's lack of sleep.

Staying in bed may be one of the reasons.

I couldn't bite back the sigh that came up, so I put my hand over my mouth to hide it, but it seemed obvious that I was crying, and I said, "Go back to sleep. I'll come back later to wake you up."

"..... Oh."

Kaoru nods at Hino, who gets up to see if she intends to go to the staff room.

I really feel like I want him to be there, but if I am too conscious of him, I risk losing sleep again, so I have to be patient.

I let go of my hand and lay down, and as I watched Hino walk out of the infirmary, I was quickly overcome by sleepiness.

Wrapped up in a happy feeling of sleep, Kaoru closes her eyes to the sound of the door closing and falls into a peaceful sleep for the first time in a long time.