

The light poured down with a loud bang.

While squinting in the glare, Akiharu Hino finally realized that there was no escape.

Now that they have started to move, there is no stopping them.

The large crowd would not allow it.

There was no way to avoid the bloodbath that was about to begin.

It may or may not be a saving grace, but the only thing that makes me feel better is that I'm not the only one in this situation.

....., but "Oh, thank you for waiting for me! We will now begin the main event of the day!

The roaring voice echoing throughout the multi-purpose hall was met with cheers and applause from the audience, which only made the situation even more difficult to retreat from.

I don't need any more applause.

I know it's hard to see from the stage with the added lighting, but I really hope they don't try to get the attention of more than a thousand people.! Deep quiet next to Akiharu seemed to be very angry at this situation of being exposed to the public.

(alt: I can't see it well from the stage due to the lighting, but I really want you to forgive me for attracting the attention of more than 1,000 people...! Fukagawa, who was next to Akiharu, looked quite angry at this state of being like an exposed person.) Normally, they have a cool expression that would not lose to Siberia in winter, but if you look closely, the corners of their eyes and cheeks sometimes twitch, which is really scary for those of us who are next to them.

Well, let's go right away!"

But because Todoroki said this in a cheerful voice that didn't take in any of our moods, Akiharu's heart rate became extremely serious at last.

I want to run away or disappear, but that's impossible because my neighbors won't allow me to flee before the enemy.

"Wow, it's finally starting."

Kaede, sitting one seat over from Shinkan, with a face as innocent as a child in front of an amusement park, could see Todoroki onstage with a microphone taking a deep breath.

The speakers then send a loud voice throughout the hall.

Even though Akiharu was holding his ears to avoid reality, he could hear what was going on: "Ladies and gentlemen, I've been waiting for you: 'Shine, shine, bloom! Miss Hakuryo Contest" is about to begin!

The most popular fall event at Hakuryo is the "Reibi Festival".

It was shortly after the start of the second semester when Akiharu learned that the festival was an art festival called the "KARAKURIKURIKURIKURI".

I was having lunch with my childhood friend and trauma maker, Tomomi Saikyo, when it occurred to me that it came up in a casual conversation.

Well, doesn't Hakuryo have a culture festival?

We don't have, but we do have the Arts Festival instead.

Art Festival? What's the difference between an arts festival and a cultural festival?

It's a showcase for the arts, with similarities to the painting exhibitions, dances, and performances.

So, what about your stall? What about the haunted house?

Of course not. Only invited guests, and even then only family members and parents, can come to the school as guests. It's not very exciting.

It was not until halfway through October that Akiharu recalled such a conversation over a bowl of pasta.

It was a very frightening place, in front of the deep quiet where some kind of black aura was shimmering.

The Reibi Festival will be held over the weekend at

It was the usual classroom, the usual afternoon math class time, but after saying that as soon as he took the podium, he kept his mouth shut and did not continue.

After such a preamble, there must be some reason for the Reibi Festival.

Even Akiharu, who is not a very bright person, could imagine that much, and that is why he remembered the conversation he had with Tomomi.

I had heard that it was just an art festival, and that the Education Department would only help with a little transportation and reception the day before and the day of the festival.

There's no bake sale, I didn't inform my cousin Natsume who got a text that she's taking a follow-up exam for a failing grade, and there seems to be no last minute problems, but there's a reason why she's in such a bad mood:

The usual suspects have created a scene.

At the same time that Akiharu was thinking of the smile of the person in question, he said, "Hey, it's you!

The door to the classroom opened and in walked Ji Feng Tianyi, smiling with the same contemptuous smile as we had imagined.

"Shinkan, I'm done explaining ugh?

..... No, it's a work in progress.

(alt: "... No, it's still coming.") The voice of Fukayoshi, who has suppressed his emotions, is quite frightening, but the fountain pen throw, which was performed at full speed, is even scarier.

The director is frozen in place when she sees the stick stuck in the door right next to her face.

Although she felt a little sympathy for Kaede, who was still not suited to the suit, Akiharu quickly dismissed it.

Because - almost certainly, the real victim is not Kaede, but rather, Deep quiet.

The bad adult, who should really be the perpetrator, became thinly teary-eyed and said, "Mi-chan, I've told you many times to stop doing that, it's scary.

(alt: The useless adult, who should have been the perpetrator, became slightly teary-eyed and said, "Mi, Fukagawa-chan, that's scary, so I've been telling you to stop it many times...") Please don't make me do this over and over again at"

"Well, but it seems like every time I go to, I'm being pissed off for a different reason?"

I always tell them to behave in an exemplary manner and refrain from self-serving behavior, but they violate this rule. In the big picture, it's the same thing.

Fukaba glares at him with harsh words, but the chancellor only reacts in a small animal way, putting his index finger to his lips and tilting his head.

I'm sure he only understood half of what was said.

(alt: I'm sure he only understood half of what he said.) Too bad in many ways.

After a few seconds of almost unsuccessful preaching, Fukakan meditated as if to hold something back and turned his icy gaze back to Kaede.

"At, Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to explain the situation to you."

What? I thought Shinka-chan would do it for me. No, I'll do it myself!

Kaede's imprudent questioning was only interrupted by a panicked movement to the top of the podium.

It seemed that he had noticed the fountain pen in the hand of Fukagan.

A rash of stationery and blood spatter was averted, but the problem begins here.

The reason is that the trouble that befalls the quiet is likely to be trouble for the education department as well.

The other students are aware of this and the atmosphere is tense.

While everyone was watching with bated breath, Kaede, who was wiping off the cold sweat, began to speak.

I'm sorry, but I'm not sure. We're going to have the Reibi Festival on the weekend, and I'd like to ask for a little help from a few of you in the Education Department.

(alt: "Well, it's the Reimi Festival on the weekend, so I'd like to ask a few volunteers from the secondary education department to cooperate with me.") '.....'

(alt: 『.....』) The silence remained the same, but the atmosphere suddenly changed.

Tension loosens, then awkwardness flows in.

I bet more than half of the class would say, "I could get away with this."

I am sure they must have felt relieved.

"Someone or several."

The majority of the students will be spared, although some will be sacrificed.

Akiharu is the same in that he wishes that the bowl would be turned over to someone other than himself.

There is no way they would voluntarily jump into a minefield.

While the classroom is filled with murderous glances and thoughts, Kaede's voice echoes, as if she is not reading the atmosphere.

We've decided to do something a little different for the upcoming Reibi Festival, and we need people to help out on the day of the event.

It's a funny joke that we are now going to Certainly, I and the rest of the faculty didn't even know the project existed until this morning, so I can use that term correctly, but to hear the president of the board of trustees, the initiator of the project, say that is a very funny joke."

Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Your face is scary, isn't it?"

As Kaede said with a twitchy smile, Fukagan looked so scary that even the Savannah champion or the president surrounded by SPs might run away from him.

It is hard enough to be stared at in the freezing cold, but it is also frightening to feel the tremendous pressure radiating from your whole body even though your expression is frozen.

I would like to not to scare our students who have nothing to do with this issue.

But thanks to you, I have a clear picture.

The president was the cause of the problem this time, too.

It was always a spur-of-the-moment event.

"Well, then, isn't it? We're going to rent a multi-purpose hall for a contest, and we'd like to recruit a moderator and a judge. Well, is there anyone who would like to stand for the position?

Although urged to do so, of course, Akiharu did not raise his hand.

In the first place, who would go to the trouble of stepping into a minefield of warfare?

.....

Not "brave," but "stupid."

The "Special Transformation" on top of the

The one with a "*" on it.

As Todoroki stood up in high spirits, the president said, "Oh, it's wonderful that you are taking the initiative to run for office.

The response of the students was totally different.

We should be happy that we are not being assigned more troublesome work, but we are all well aware that most things go horribly wrong when the roar is involved.

But even if we knew that, there is no one else to run for the position.

If it's just a dirty job, I'm sure I'll get a triple whammy of being laughed at and resented.

(alt: If it's just a dirty job, it's going to be a trio of being laughed at and hated.) When Akiharu looked at Todoroki to see what he thought of such a subtle reaction from those around him, Todoroki seemed to take no notice and stood up with a grin on his face.

I can feel everyone's hopes and fears about me taking on this big role! I'm going to do a great job of living up to it and showing them that I'm the most qualified person ever!"

No one wants anything from you, okay?

"Don't worry about it. This nice guy, Todoroki, is not the kind of soft guy to give in under pressure.

I had just inadvertently given him an honest gift, but he responded in some kind of mistaken way.

I want to get rid of it so badly.

But since it was in front of the "Fukayoshi" and, to top it off, Akiharu doesn't want to be the host, it was hard for me to get into it.

While I was remaining calm with a clouded feeling, Kaede, who was beaming on the stage, waved one hand to make an appeal and said, "Well then, it is confirmed that Ms. Todoroki will be the host and facilitator.

Oh, I'm on it!

"Then, the other help is to choose one of the boys other than Mr. Todoroki."

No, wait a minute, Mr. President, wait a minute!

Kaede started to say something unreasonable, and Akiharu panicked and lifted his hips, "There are only three boys left, right? Or rather, why did you omit the girls and what are they helping with in the first place? Get that straight, get it straight!

"Uh... Uh... Huh? What's wrong, Mr. Akiharu? We are in Japan, so we are troubled by such an appeal full of Western power. But, I do think that a culture as tolerant of homosexuality as yours should be more widespread.

In the face of a very clear appeal, they begin to make mistaken statements at a moment's notice.

If she opens her mouth now, she's likely to spout off a terrible rant, so Akiharu glares at Kaede in silence, and while quickly hiding behind Fukayoshi, the board chairman says, "But, you know, it's the judges who are supposed to do the work.

"..... What's a jury member for?"

"Oh, that's right."

The board chairperson peeked out from the shadows of Mukankan, her eyes closed as if she was enduring a headache, and with a childish smile on her face, she said, "I'm a judge for the beauty pageant!"

At this unexpected comment, Akiharu froze in a position as if she was about to bite.

..... Did you just say MISCON? Is that, uh, that thing? The one where they decide who's the most beautiful? No, wait. This used to be a super-lady school, right? It's a place where the kind of talk and sumptuous meals you'd think would only be possible in a girl's comic book are commonplace, you know? How could such a silly, after all, absolute last, high and mighty bastion of quiet allow such a stupid event to take place?

He had a dark look in his eyes, as if he had given up on something.

This means that is really, really, right? I tried to take it in a softer direction, but it seems impossible now.

After seeing the look on his face, I had no choice but to face the reality.

But, I still think it's a Miss Contest.

When Akiharu asked how she could come up with the idea of doing such a thing at Hakuryo, she replied, "Well, that's what I was thinking. So I'll leave it to you, Akiharu-san, won't you?"

He passed us a bomb that we can't even be stunned by.

No, seriously, wait! Why? Why did you nominate them? ! If we're going to choose one of the boys, we should have three choices. Why don't you give us a choice right there!

If you are Daichi-san or Sanke-san, it seems like, "Why are you sitting in the jury's seat without entering the competition? It's like, "Why are you sitting in the jury's seat without entering the competition? The teachers will be on the jury as well, but we, as attractive adults, can't help it, but don't you think it would be better if the student representatives were more masculine?"

I don't think so. I don't think so at all! Especially because the fact that you have the charm of an adult is the most important point for me!

"Hmmm... Your children still don't know what they're talking about..."

What a disgusting comment.

If only I could reach him, I would be able to stop him from pulling his soft cheeks in any direction.

I would like to remind Kaede, who even winked at me inappropriately, of the reality of the situation, but what Akiharu should prioritize now is the judge issue.

You don't want to get caught up in your opponent's pace.

Anyway, how can they be forced to decide on a nomination when they have not even run for office? It should be done in a more democratic and fair manner.

If you insist so much, I can put it to a recommendation vote, but probably won't change the result, will it?"

No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

He tried to assure me that there was no such thing.

Akiharu noticed that before he knew it, the atmosphere in the class had changed.

I turned around, sensing a still, disturbing presence, and said, "What the?"

Almost everyone in the class looked at me in silence.

Some guys were putting their hands together as if they were worshipping, and others were looking at me with pity. I could clearly see what they were trying to say.

(alt: There are those who put their hands together as if they were worshiping, and those who look at them with pity.) I don't know if there has ever been a miracle that has not brought such joy.

(alt: Has there ever been a miracle that made me so unhappy?) "Look, look, look, you can see it."

..... I waited. Please, wait.

(alt: ".....Wait. Please wait.") Then, I would like to ask Ms. Akiharu to be the judge.

I told you to wait for me, didn't I? No, this is not it, there must be some kind of mistake! And they don't think so. Hey, don't look away from me, don't look down, look at me, look at me!

I had to stop and stop, and I had to stop and stop, and I had to stop and stop, and I had to stop and stop, and I had to stop and stop.

It was unanimously decided that Akiharu would serve as a judge, except for himself.

After all classes for the day were over.

After showering and changing, Akiharu confronts Kaede in the president's office.

I was feeling dejected by the violence of the numbers, and I said, "Well then, please come to my room later, Akiharu-san.

The reason for this is that it was said that "the world is a big place, and we are not going to let it go.

So, well, we came to the director's office with comfortable chairs and sofas, a large plasma TV with cartoons, comic books, and snacks. "We're here as you said we would be. What can I do for you?"

Oh, that was quick! I'll finish in a few pages, so can you wait a little longer?

It's okay, but it's a rare sight to see you reading fiction.

It's one thing to see them lying on the sofa and flapping their feet like children, but to see them reading a novel instead of a comic book may be a new sight for them.

I don't know what kind of book it is because of the cover, but from the thickness, it doesn't seem to be a paperback size comic book.

(alt: I don't know what it is because it's covered, but judging from its thickness, it doesn't look like a paperback-sized comic book.) Akiharu sits down across from Kaede and folds his arms silently so as not to get in the way of her reading.

I sometimes read novels myself, so I understand the annoyance of people talking to me while I am following the fine print.

This is especially true near the end of the day.

With Akiharu watching over her, Kaede read the last page at a relatively fast pace and said, "Huh.

He exhaled, closed the book, and sat up on the sofa.

Hello, hello, hello. I love the love that transcends status. Sensei, I almost cried several times during the lecture.

If it's so interesting, lend it to me sometime. But is it a love story or fantasy?"

No, it's a school story. It's set in a prestigious boys' school, and there's a wonderful, heated development with classmates from childhood and seniors in the student council.

..... I wonder what it is that seems so strange when you hear it alone, but when you consider the connection between the two conversations, it seems so unnatural.

"Huh? Huh? I think you said something about affection."

Yes, that's right. The main character is torn between friendship and love, and is in agony over two differently attractive people of the same sex.

Unfortunately, it seemed to be a novel overflowing with a kind of charm that Akiharu could not understand.

I was also shocked by the fact that I had been given so much unnecessary knowledge that I immediately understood that was a specific genre.

..... Okay, no talk of borrowing. We have better things to talk about than that right now.
(alt: "... Okay, don't talk about borrowing it. Right now, there are things we should talk about instead of that.") Let's read it. Let's dive into this world, Akiharu-san.

He said he wouldn't do it! Oh, for God's sake, get on with your business.

I don't want to drag this topic out any longer, and I'm tired from all the hard work I've been doing to relieve the frustration of a hard day's work, so I want to get this over with.

In front of Akiharu, Kaede made a gentle smile that showed no sign of her strange femininity, and began to talk in a friendly voice.

I'll tell you what it is. I'm talking about the Miss Contest for which Akiharu-san accepted to be a judge.

Yeah, the one that decided to ignore my will perfectly.

I'm sorry about that, but it's a bit sudden, so we have to start recruiting contestants from tomorrow. So, I was wondering if you could ask some of the girls you know to participate?"

He did a great job of brushing off our sarcasm and asking us for a favor.

This is why the natural person who goes at his own pace has such a bad temperament. But I have almost given up on that area.

However, in order to resolve any points that may be bothering you, Akiharu sighed slightly and then asked, "It's fine if you just want to talk to her. In the first place, why is she suddenly in a beauty contest?"

"Hmmm..... that's because I've always wanted to do it in a spectacular way."

When was the last time that happened?

I have been a student at Hakuryo ever since I was a student there. Especially at the high school level, I wanted to do it so much, but the president at the time was my grandmother, so I couldn't do it. I was, um, scared."

The expression on her face doesn't make it seem like she is very scared, but Kaede says so, so it must be something serious.

It's a challenge that a person who is so willing to take on the world's champion in the field of fear-mongering would hesitate to take on such a challenge.

She may have a sense of being a bad person, just like Tomomi for me.

And unlike back then, we have co-education now. That's why we want to make it spectacular. When I was a teacher, I would just sneak around in the shadows and vote for popularity, so this will be my revenge!

That's what a popularity contest is all about, isn't it, girls?

There are things that happen only between women. By the way, when we tallied up the results by grade, the top girl in our grade was Haya Haya When we tried to congratulate her by giving her a life-size stuffed toy of the "Dalariman bearded seal," which was almost a secret class craze, she was coldly rejected. I was coldly rejected.

"..... Wait a minute."

(alt: "..... wait a minute") I think the president just mentioned a new fact that is hard to ignore.

"..... I have a question that I both want to ask and don't want to ask, and it's bothering me tremendously."

(alt: ".....There are some things I really want to ask and some things I don't want to ask.")
Yes? What is it, I'm going to give you a big answer?"

"..... are you and Fukagan the same age?"

Yes, that's right. But I have always been seen as young and you have always been seen as old. Is that what they call an "old face"?

If he hears me saying such a thing, he's going to get a fountain pen smash right through him this time.

You're going to die.

But it's such a shocking fact that I can't even say anything about it.

I didn't know this and that were classmates, and that Jiang Kan was an OG at Hakurei Horyo.

Well, Tomomi once said about Fukagan, "Because she has a good upbringing."

I can't imagine how she could have ended up as a maid teacher in an education department.

.....

(alt: That's what I was saying... How did I end up doing something like a maid teacher in a secondary school?) It was so unexpected that I couldn't come up with a coherent thought, but Akiharu listened to Kaede's story.

In both first and second years, Kikan came in first, so we wanted to have a little happening at least at the end of the competition. The mature and beautiful girl was so popular that she was able to beat the runner-up by a triple score. She had great support from the underclassmen, and many of them wanted her personal belongings, much to the teacher's chagrin.

"..... Why does it bother you?"



You see, I can't say no when a pretty junior asks me for something, and I had a hard time getting her to give me a handkerchief or a hair clip or something.

(alt: "Look, I can't say I don't like it if a cute junior asks me to do it, and it's hard to get Fukagawa-chan's handkerchief and hair clip...") The same is true of the other two.

The fact that the air that should be moderately heated feels like it is chilly at the bottom.

And now the question is being asked by a third party who has been in the room for some time.

Giggidy, " and turned his head like a rusty tin toy, and at the tip of Kaede's gaze, "So it's? I didn't care about the fact that you didn't return the item I lent you when you forgot something, because I thought I had given it to you, but you were diverting it to I had no idea until today.

The voice is quiet and devoid of emotion, but you can feel that he is extremely angry.

Since this is the case even for Akiharu, who is not looking at me, Kaede must be absolutely terrified when we are face to face with each other.

"Mi-chan, Mi-chan, why are you here at?"

"We've already spent a lot of money preparing things, so we went to to discuss what we could do to make the performance as respectable as possible, but we heard some unexpected stories."

While looking at the pressure that even the wild orcas are under that seems to instantly calm them down, Akiharu slowly retreated from the sofa where he had been sitting.

Carefully, without haste, and with great care not to become a captive as well, I keep my distance from the beautiful maid teacher and the fawn-trembling chancellor, and say, "Mr. Hino... Yes, sir!

While trying to escape from the room stealthily by killing the presence, you are suddenly called by someone and fail the mission.

In addition, his voice was so backwards that it was almost uncool.

Even in such a disgraceful manner, the enemy of quietness seemed to be the only one, not giving us a glance and saying, "It's almost dinner time. Go back to your dormitory.

"I...

"Ah, ah? Wait, that's not fair!

Kaede, realizing that she was going to be left behind, panicked and said something like that, but honestly, I couldn't listen to such nonsense.

We must cherish ourselves and the only life we have.

Well, I'll tell you what.

Akiharu, in one swift movement, emerged from the director's office with more speed and energy than an unleashed hare.

Just before closing the door, I heard Kaede's voice that sounded like a scream, but I can't help but think it was her voice. But I'm sure I'm just imagining it.

(alt: Just before I closed the door, I felt like I heard Kaede's screaming voice, but... yeah, it was just my imagination.) It is not because the door has excellent soundproofing that the voices were shut out or anything like that.

I did the same thing with my palms, and cut a cross on top of it.

..... Well, let's at least try to get some participants:

(alt: "... Well, at least let's gather participants...") Muttering to escape the bitterness of having abandoned her, Akiharu left the scene.

The next day at lunchtime.

And that's why. If you're not busy, why don't you come out for a while?"

I don't think it's the kind of thing you can just go to for if you're not busy.

Since there would be no service activities, Akiharu decided to quickly assemble a lineup, and the first person he approached was, naturally enough, Tomomi Saikei, a well-known masked honor student.

I invited him to the diner for a consultation and discussed the situation with him before the ordered food arrived.

He's a bad-tempered but caring guy.

However, since the previous encounter, I've been conscious of it, and to be honest, it's hard for me to do it.

..... because of that "thank you"

It is not even possible to ask how much meaning was attached to the "Hates, Hates, Hates" and what kind of intentions were involved.

Unlike Selnia, the driller, who is simple and clear, Tomomi is simple and clear.

It was difficult to have a real conversation with them because I was afraid that they would be afraid to answer my questions even though I had the courage to ask them, and when I confronted them face to face, they would get stuck in my throat and I would not be able to ask them any more questions.

It is highly possible that he was a graduate of a boarding school for boys who went through middle and high school.

While feeling half nervous and half anxious, Akiharu asked Tomomi again with a somewhat reluctant face, "Is it not like that today?

But you have free time during the Reibi Festival, don't you? It would be nice to get up on stage for a bit and reconfirm your reputation. What a"

It should not be helped that the voice gradually becomes quieter in the gaze colder than that of the winter winds from the mountains.

It's really stomach-churning.

Tomomi stared straight ahead at Akiharu who was starting to get nervous in a different way than before.

I was starting to get worried that I was going to be tortured again. Well, I don't have anything to do, and it would be fine if I left, but I don't know what to do. What about the other participants?"

I'm still undecided. Shikikagami said she would invite Saori-san, but her participation is still undecided.

(alt: "Well, it hasn't been decided at all yet... Shikikagami said he would invite Saori-san, but her participation remains undecided.") "That means he's not here, right? I don't want to go to an event where there are no other people and it's guaranteed to be a nightmare.

This is a reasonable opinion on the part of the participants, and it is understandable that they may be reluctant to participate.

So, although it was just happenstance, Akiharu, who had become the facilitator of the event, hurriedly added a few words of follow-up.

I know some of them, and I've already identified some of them. At least four or five of them should show up.

(alt: "Yeah, you said you'd invite the other guys to participate too, and I've got my eye on some of them, too. At least four or five people should show up...") A star, you know?

Tomomi's eyes narrowed and her lips pouted for some reason.

When the opponent is silent, it should be a chance to attack or appeal to the audience.

But, the seniors like Aiche and Mina aren't the type to go out in public, so I'm going to ask Selnia and Hou..."

As Akiharu listed the names in the order they came to mind, Tomomi's eyebrows suddenly twitched.

I knew it. Well, that's interesting to me, too.

(alt: "As expected... Well, that's more interesting for me, too.") What? What?"

I don't care about details. See how convenient it is that they're here?"

Tomomi looked in the direction where the rumored people were.

Selnia = Iori = Flameheart, who is wearing her hair in a very drilled style today, and Feng Shuilan, who is nearly 180 centimeters tall and looks apologetically shrunken behind her, came into the cafeteria.

As usual, the area that I am in charge of is a hole in the ground and not used by upper division students, making it very conspicuous and convenient for them to take a seat.

The sight of the two approaching made Akiharu want to sigh.

I'm sure there will be another argument between Tomomi and Selnia as usual.

(alt: I'm sure there will be another argument between Tomomi and Selnia like always.) Then, as a matter of course, the black-hearted blacks get the upper hand, and the driller gets angry, and for some reason, it sparks a firestorm on our side.

I'm used to it by now, but I'd like to ask her out for the beauty contest, so at least give me a break for today.

Since it is usually the black-hearted person over here who is the aggressor, Akiharu turned to Tomomi to ask her to calm down,....., and his eyes involuntarily crackled.

Tomomi, who usually wears a smile of reserve in public places but never takes off the mask of an honor student, is wearing an evil smile.? Yeah, that's very convenient.

I'm afraid to ask him about it, but he even let out a pleasant mumbling.

While Akiharu was wondering whether he should suppress his fear and ask or pretend he didn't hear, Selnia and the others came right up to him, and time was up.

If this happens, the only thing we can do is to make ourselves as small as a stone lying on the side of the road and escape as much as possible.

Call me a klutz, but I can't get involved in a woman's war of words.

As Akiharu was making a decision to accept his shame without anyone knowing, Selnia, full of confidence, looked down at him with her arms folded and said, "Oh my, Selnia-san and Hou-san. Just in time."

Just before she was about to say something with her full lips, Tomomi spoke to her.

At this almost unexpected timing, Selnia looks startled for a moment, then her lips curl into a tight knot and she says, "What is it,?"

No, the timing was too good. Hey, Akiharu-kun?"

So please don't swing this one our way, please.! It was as if the two of them were sneaking around and playing tricks together, and it was very, very awkward for Akiharu.

(alt: So please don't throw it over here, so...! It was as if the two of them were sneaking around and doing some tricks, which made Akiharu feel very, very uncomfortable.) Even though this is not the case, Selnia's narrow eyebrows are already raised in a wiggle.

The boiling point is too low and the misunderstanding is too quick.

The phoenix in the back is fidgeting because he can't keep up with the changing situation.

Tomomi should have been able to see what was going on, but she smiled as if she were a natural who couldn't read the situation and spoke to the drill as if it were about to start spinning rapidly.

"You heard it in homeroom this morning, didn't you, Selnia? "You heard in homeroom this morning, didn't you, Ms. Selnia, that the chancellor has decided to hold a beauty pageant at the Reibi Festival?"

..... Yes, I heard that. What's wrong with that?

The first thing I want to do is to make sure that the participants are all in the same place. I thought I'd like to participate.

..... Tomomi is in the beauty pageant?

The anger fades, and Selnia asks somewhat doubtfully, "What is it that you want to do?"

I understand that feeling.

..... is better than this one in the sense that I was surprised.

I'm glad you decided to participate, but it was also very sudden.

I thought that someone as unattractive as me shouldn't be in such a spectacular event as Miss Contest, but Akiharu-kun insisted, so I decided to enter. I know you're in trouble, and it would be a good way to liven things up."

I just can't help but ask, "Why? Is that right, Akiharu?"

"....., I feel like I said something close to that, but why are you losing your temper?"

Akiharu's modest protest and question, "I don't think this is the place for me to be blamed," was completely ignored.

Although I didn't want to look directly at Selnia when she was frustrated because of the power of her eyes, I felt empty in this way.

But the tense atmosphere between Tomomi, who never stopped smiling, and Selnia, who was in a moody aura, might have been better.

I knew her from childhood, and when she told me she came to me first, I couldn't say no."

..... Hmm, yes. I'm sure you'll agree that it's a beautiful story.

(alt: "... Hmm, that's right. Would you mind if I praised it as a good story?") No, it's nothing serious. - Yes, yes, let's go back to the topic. Hey, Akiharu-kun?"

Ah? Uh, yeah, I'm pretty sure I heard something like that at"

I'm not talking about that. Why didn't you ask me first?

"Oh, what? You're going to be in the beauty pageant too?"

There's no way that's going to happen!

..... This might be a good time to get angry. Selnia is saying unreasonable things and is furious with her, and Akiharu doesn't know what to do anymore.

(alt: This is a scene where it's okay to get angry, isn't it..... Akiharu doesn't know what to do anymore when Selnia pours out her anger while saying unreasonable things.) Tomomi's personality is even more impulsive, but when she gets involved, her outbursts become unmanageable.

The fact of the matter is that Hou is so restless and unreliable that the only thing he can do is to wait for the fire to die down or deflect the anger.

Of course, the former is chosen as a safety measure.

Because, you see, if you try to do something careless, you risk the fire spreading.

While Akiharu was making such a judgment, Tomomi was still smiling with a graceful smile and said, "Oh, you're not going to answer it? I thought that the noblewoman Selnia would like this kind of fancy event.

I'm not interested in an event that's just for show, let alone a social event. I don't know why anyone would want to attend.

(alt: "I don't know anything about social gatherings, and I'm not interested in events that are just for spectacle. Rather, I don't understand people who want to go out.") Maybe it's an attempt to provoke Tomomi, but it can't be effective at that level.

Well, it is effective in the sense that it builds up an anger gauge for double payback.

The stereotypical "I'll be damned!

I have to say that I admire Selnia's guts in presenting such a sneer.

..... There's a strong case to be made that they're not thinking about it.

"I see, so Ms. Selnia will not be joining us."

Yes, of course. But, well, depending on how the other party responds, it's okay to leave enough room for thought, but I don't think it's a good idea.

(alt: "Yeah, of course.... But well, depending on how the other person reacts, it's okay to leave some room to think about it---") I heard that Akiharu-kun is going to be a judge. "By the way, Akiharu-kun is going to be a judge, together with the chairman of the board of directors and others.

".....!"

(alt: "...!?") Selnia, who had been speaking with a relaxed attitude, was cut off by Tomomi's voice.

Tomomi continues without losing pace with her opponent, whose expression is rigid.

The contest is more of a game where students are included in the judging, so I don't particularly care about the outcome. But I do care a little about the judges' evaluations, don't you?

He smiled a little and said, "Still, it's a pity that Ms. Selnia won't be there. It would have been a good opportunity.

..... What is? What do you want to talk about?

"Well? I don't think you don't have the confidence to be chosen.

At the moment he heard that one word, Akiharu felt as if a block of ice had been jammed into his spine.

Before I knew it, the harmonious lunchtime mood had completely fizzled out and was replaced by a grim and tense atmosphere.

..... Autumn Sun was also aware of it.

The chill is not so much in Tomomi's words as in the person who received them.

I looked up fearfully to see Selnia's face. I thought she was blushing with anger, but her skin remained white.

Akiharu, who seemed to lose interest, immediately said, "No, it's not like that.

I am reminded of this.

His cheeks were flushed with excitement, as they had no doubt been earlier.

That means he was so angry that he turned pale with bloodlust.?

I don't mind.

The voice was not loud, but it was clear and resonant.

As Akiharu gulps unintentionally, the aristocratic daughter of the Japanese-English quarter smiles elegantly in front of him, a smile that matches her status.

..... However, there is a clear blue streak floating on his temple.

I've changed my mind. There is no one in the Flameheart family who would be put off by such a statement. Yes, that's good, isn't it? We're also participating in the beauty pageant at the Reibi Festival:!

"Oh, you're leaving? You don't have to do that, do you?"

Tomomi is the one who should turn it down while she still can. Unless you don't want to be humiliated in front of so many people.

Thank you for your kind advice. Looking forward to the day?"

They exchange smiles and words, but their clashing gazes are full of sparks and stops, and it's very, very scary.

This may be a scene that we should be happy about because it will increase the number of participants, but the only people who can be happy about it are either wives who like daytime dramas and bogging down in the mud, or extremely masochistic people.

The first thing that comes to mind is the fact that the two countries are in the middle of a cold war, and the two countries have been fighting for years.

There was Feng Shuilan, who had been watching the events unfold with trepidation, her eyes rounded behind her glasses, and she said, "..... I'm I'm I'm? my?

He was ruminating on a friend's words that were hard to miss.

Then let's see who's going to show up! Please state your name and grade, one by one, in the order of your entry. We'll wait until the first round for the detailed self-introductions, okay?

The "Special Jury Seats" with the roaring voice of the MC

Akiharu, who was seated at a table with a sign that read, "The stage is now open," shifted his gaze to the sleeve of the stage.

I was only given a rough outline of the procedures, so I am not quite sure what I am supposed to do.

And that's what I'm talking about, too: "The judges need surprises, don't they?"

The situation is so bad that they don't even know how to judge because of Kaede's opinion, "I don't even know how to judge.

"Well, entry number one! The freshmen will lead the way!

"..... Oh?"

Under such circumstances, I couldn't help but let out a small voice when I saw my opponent on stage.

Tomomi, the top batter, was wearing a white poncho-like cloth from the neck down, like a teru teru monk.

The audience did not seem to expect him to appear in such a state, and there was only sparse applause and cheering.

In fact, there was a murmur of voices coming from all over the place.

The atmosphere became difficult from the very beginning, and I thought to myself, "Tomomi must be losing her motivation

The clear-faced honor student strode to the center of the stage and accepted the microphone offered with a smile by Todoroki, who is known for his inability to read the audience.

This makes me feel like it's funny to be in such a hurry.

If you are going to speak, you must keep quiet or you will violate manners.

The audience went quiet in no time, as if they were waiting for the right moment, and she said, "This is Tomomi Saikei, entry number one. It's only been a year since I started, but I've taken the plunge and decided to participate. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Tomomi bowed with a modest greeting in a clear voice.

After a long pause, he looked up, and a bashful smile appeared on his face.

Akiharu, who was watching from a special seat on the stage, said, "Ha-.....

He sighs with admiration.

I can only say that Tomomi is a master at what she does.

If you don't understand how you are seen on a regular basis and what actions you can take to attract and hold the attention of others, you won't be able to do what you did.

The air of embarrassment that had spread over the venue earlier had now been cleared away.

Then, a new figure emerged from the sleeve of the stage.

"Oh, and now entry number two has already made its appearance, hasn't it? Everyone, let's have a round of applause for now, even if it breaks up the arrangement, but let's have a round of applause!"

The audience responded with a wave of applause, encouraged by Todoroki's voice, who was hurriedly handed back the microphone by Tomomi.

Selnia, who came out second, was walking briskly with a confident expression on her face.

If it were autumn sunshine, I would have been nervous and embarrassed, and I would have had a lot of jitters.

Although she is strangely dressed in a poncho from the neck down, like Tomomi, one could be forgiven for thinking that she is wearing a custom-made dress from a major brand.

The blonde, voluminous curls of her hair look great against the white fabric, but Selnia's beauty is unparalleled.

I have a strong impression of her angry face because of her emotional outbursts, but when she has a dignified expression like she does now, she is as beautiful and has as much presence as the top models who appear in famous international fashion shows.

..... It is somewhat annoying to think so.

What about that simple drill?

And even though it was in such a teru teru mono style.

As Akiharu watched from the judges' table with a slightly wrinkled brow, Selnia accepted Todoroki's microphone with surprising politeness and said, "It's Selnia = Iori = Flameheart from the first year. Although I'm number two on the entry list, I will do my best to make sure that the contest results will not be based on the order of numbers.

At the end of her words, she glanced at Tomomi.

It's like a declaration of war, to see who is being addressed.

In response, Tomomi smiles at Selnia.

If you can do it, do it, while understanding the other party's intentions.

The first time I saw a "Hinokishin" in the market, I was surprised.

The exchange of gazes and thoughts seemed to be emitting pale sparks, which made Akiharu more concerned than the others.

..... Funny, was the beauty pageant ever this competitive? Why does it have to be so heated? Why is there such a deadly atmosphere among some of the contestants? "All right, next, next! Entry number three, come on!

I'm Feng Shuilan, the third one from Nah, we're in the same year as you two.

As Akiharu was engulfed in an atmosphere of disquiet, Hou, who had come onstage, bowed down to the audience and was greeted with a whirlwind of applause from the audience.

This is a bit surprising.

Although the audience was supposed to be only students and their relatives, I felt the applause was louder than when Tomomi and Selnia performed.

I think that her tall, model-like figure, her good looks, and above all, her modesty compared to the previous two women, make her look fresh in the eyes of the customers? She seems to be the type that would be popular among middle school students, and she may even have a cute personality among the seniors.

As Akiharu was thinking that he might be a dark horse, Todoroki, who was holding the microphone again, glanced at the note in his hand and said, "And now, the next entry number, number 16!

"To, huh?"

I couldn't help but make a funny noise as I listened to what I heard.

..... What? Was it my imagination or did you just say 16th?

However, judging from the audience's half-hearted applause, it was unlikely to be a mishearing.

Tilting his head to the side of the stage, wondering what the heck was going on, he glanced offstage and "..... uh"

(alt: I tilted my head wondering what the hell was going on, and moved my eyes to the wings of the stage.....「..... Ah.....」) When Akiharu saw the person who came out, he was somewhat convinced.

The fact that they are all wearing the same "teru-teru-bon" style is no different from the other three, but it also clearly shows off their absurdly beautiful appearance.

Tomomi and her colleagues are also at a very high level, but they are still two or three steps ahead of the rest of us.

Moreover, Akiharu knows that the volume pushing up her chest is more than that of Selnia, and that her legs are also quite long.

And yet, her waistline is as thin as a joke.

The fourth one was Saori-san, aka Shikikagami's sister who is well-known for her happening undressing.

The audience was filled with admiring voices from all over the place.

The light makes her look even more radiant than usual, and her white costume makes her look strangely sexy and glamorous.

Saori quickly captivated the audience, and as she walked to the center of the stage, she held the microphone in both hands and smiled.

My name is Saori Shikkyo, and I am a third-year student in the upper secondary education department. Please make your acquaintance, everyone.

Well, I'll give a supplementary explanation now, but the girls from number 4 to number 15 have decided not to participate, so the four of us from and above will be the elite few to decide Miss Hakuryo!

"..... Oh, I knew it."

(alt: "... Ah, is that so?") With Todoroki's words, Akiharu knew that his prediction had come true.

I heard that about ten people had entered the competition as of noon yesterday, and Saori, who announced her participation just before the deadline, came in fourth, which made me wonder what might have happened.

Even Akiharu can imagine that it would be tough to be compared to Saori, let alone to other students.

A normal pretty girl is no match for her, and she will probably lose her motivation.

So all that was left were Tomomi and Selnia, who hated to lose and would not back down just because their opponents were strong, and Feng, who had no intention of competing from the start.

For Feng, it may have been even more difficult for him to decline because he decided to participate in the event because of Selnia's momentum.

(alt: As for Otori, he decided to participate in the form of being swept away by Selnia's momentum, so it might have been even more difficult to decline.) After sympathizing with the Chinese girl who was caught between a rock and a hard place, Akiharu once again looked at the four people lined up on the stage.

Saori must be the top candidate for the championship.

Not only is she a very beautiful girl, but she is also the only third-year student.

In many cases, this type of event should result in the third-year students, who are left with little time to finish the event.

It may not be a decisive factor, but a small difference in impression may be enough to overcome the difference.

Now, let's begin the much-anticipated first round of judging!

"....., finally."

(alt: "... Oh, finally?") Todoroki's voice, which he posed for no reason at all, was accompanied by light background music playing on the speakers.

If it were a normal Hakuryo, a live orchestra would have started playing, but since Mikan decided not to spend more than the budget had already been spent, he just played the sound source.

Daichi was in charge of sound, and Sanke was in charge of spotlights and other lighting.

The other girls were divided into two groups: one to guide the audience and the other to follow the participants.

While all the students in the training course were working hard, Todoroki, who ran for the position himself, was particularly motivated and began to talk about the contents of the examination in a lively tone of voice.

The first round is super simple: We'll have four participants present themselves! I'm sure everyone thought they looked ridiculous, but since each of them is taking on a winning outfit that

fits them perfectly, we'll show them off while they talk about their hobbies, special skills, and what they're passionate about in this beauty pageant!

(alt: "The content of the first screening is very simple. Ask the four participants to present themselves! Everyone thinks they're going to dress strangely, but each of them will wear a match suit that suits them perfectly. While you're unveiling it, I'd like you to talk a lot about your hobbies, special skills, and enthusiasm for this beauty pageant!") Akiharu was relieved to know that this much was within the acceptable range.

I thought it would be a more messed up judging process since it's supposed to be a plan devised by the high level of idiots on the board of directors. "One person will be eliminated in this first round, but the decision I'm interested in will be based on how loud the audience applauds!

(alt: Since it should have been a plan conceived by a high-ranking board chairman, I thought the judging would be even more absurd... It's decided by the loudness of your applause!") "..... what's that fluff"

"Well, this is a device to measure sound volume. The unit is..."

The sudden reverting back to standard Japanese may be irritating, but as long as we are all human beings, we should not blame ourselves.

The noise meters consisted of a set of a pole and a round plate like a sign, and a set of a square machine with a digital display window.

I am sure they are trying to measure the sound of applause with this.

I think it's more advantageous for people seated closer to the stage to applaud, so I don't think the overall tally can be calculated. Also, the judges are too meaningless.

(alt: But this is more advantageous for people in seats closer to the stage to applaud, so I feel like I can't do an overall tally, but Also, the judges are too pointless. .) Although he had plenty of things to say and plenty to complain about, Akiharu decided to let the project proceed as is without saying anything.

I don't want to make myself conspicuous.

Following her instincts and honest feelings, she decided to let it go, and Tomomi stepped forward to follow Todoroki's instructions.

Then, he gradually puts his hand around the neck of the poncho.

Then let's start with the number one entrant, Tomomi Saikei, who will make her debut.

With a simple signal, the hand gripping the fabric is pulled vigorously and the poncho falls to the floor as if disassembling.

"Oh,, hmm?"

Akiharu was impressed by the simple but impressive set-up, but he immediately raised an eyebrow.

But it is not only me, but also Todoroki and Selnia who are reacting in a similar manner.

The reason for this is, "Well, if I'm not mistaken, Saikei's daughter is wearing a school uniform, but"

Yes. It's the uniform of Hakuryo Gakuin High School.

Tomomi responds as a matter of course, but it is difficult to react because it is so unexpected.

It was a moment when I was truly glad that I was not the host of the event.

If I had been a weak-willed person, I would have become slurred and then silenced.

While Akiharu watched the proceedings from the safety of the judges' seats, Tomomi smiled into the front audience as the microphone was pointed at her.

I was torn between what to wear until the last minute, but I decided on the school uniform because I thought it would be the most appropriate outfit for me. I also wondered if it would be appropriate to wear to an event like this.

Tomomi's mouth fell open in embarrassment as she said this.

And to that, I say, "Yeah, right."

The fact that the two are not in the same room together is a good sign that they are not in the same room together.

It is true that the school uniform suits her and she looks good without being self-conscious, but that is not Tomomi's true intention.

When did such a scheming, black-hearted person ever make a decision based on such a reason?

It must have been an implicit declaration.

By wearing the uniform on the playing field, "I am the most appropriate female student for Hakuryo.

I can't help but imagine that is a black-hearted person who is making this appeal. I don't have any special skills, but if I had to pick one, I could study a little.

"Oh, according to the data at hand, Saikei's daughter took it upon herself to graduate from middle school with top honors! She must be an honor student who can study really hard.

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

(alt: "No, no, no...") The black-hearted person who reacts like he is being made fun of.

There were smiling whispers from the audience, and it was all in accordance with Tomomi's playbook.

Each dialogue with Todoroki, the moderator, leads to a positive outcome, and I wonder how much thought he puts into it.

..... I don't know."

(alt: "... I don't know.") Seeing his childhood friend smiling on stage, Akiharu put his elbows on the judges' desk and let out a small breath.

I was the one who asked her to participate in the beauty contest, but seeing that mask on her face makes me a little uncomfortable.

I understand that Tomomi is making an effort to play up to the young ladies attending Hakuryo, but as someone who knows her innocent smile, it doesn't really feel right, or at least it barely feels right.

He has a mean streak, but he is also a good-natured person on the edge, and the gap between his usual attitude and the time when he is alone with her is so intense that it is subtly difficult to draw a line between what is calculated and what is sincere.

If he were more straightforward, it would be easier to understand various things.

And then he said that the other day, during the matchmaking frenzy, he said, "..... Wow, why am I thinking about something I don't need to think about?

How can this bonkers brain remind itself of things that it has tried to avoid touching or thinking about?

When Akiharu felt embarrassed and held his feverish head, he said, "I don't know what you're agonizing about, but please be quiet. Many people are watching you.

(alt: Embarrassed, Akiharu held his head in a feverish tone and said, "-- I don't know what you're agonizing over, but please be quiet. There are a lot of people watching.") A small but sharp voice of warning came from next door.

I turned around to see Fukayoshi, who was looking at me coldly, and said, "If there is an emergency, please don't show yourselves in such a manner. You and Todoroki-san are the center of attention as rare male students in the pre-college education department.

"Ugh., I'm sorry."

(alt: "Ugh.....Um, I'm sorry.") "..... If you understand, straighten your back."

(alt: "... If you understand, straighten your back.") It is more difficult than usual to resist when you are told to do so by someone who is also in a state of display, and Akiharu does as instructed, straightening his rounded back.

I am sure that Shinkan is right and that they are the focus of attention.

You should be attracting even more curious stares than the contestants or the Miss Contestants, so you need to get your act together.

Otherwise, it will cause trouble for the other members of the Education Department, but who cares about those guys who made themselves into judges by sheer force of numbers

While Akiharu was thinking with such a dark aura, he heard a thunderous applause from the audience.

Tomomi found herself back in the beginning position and, to her dismay, she barely heard what she was saying in the second half.

But then again, Tomomi is surely an honor student and only speaks in one sentence.

We can only imagine how the next person will also appeal to us.

Next up, entry number two! Let's see what the English noblewoman, Lady Selnia, has in store for us!

Yes," he said. Let me show you."

..... No, I can't respond if you look at me there.

Although she noticed Selnia's gaze, she did not understand what it meant.

So Akiharu again adopts a still posture and watches the white fabric fall to the floor.

"..... Uh."

(alt: "..... ah") In contrast to the cheers of the audience, Akiharu said, "I knew it!

I thought, "I'm not sure what I'm supposed to do.

(alt: I thought.) The costume revealed was a long, bright red dress with one hem boldly rolled up.

Most of the left thigh is visible, and a wide-open back can be seen by spinning around.

However, it is a man's natural instinct that what attracts his attention the most is his chest, which is open in a V-shape and reveals a deep cleavage.

The corsage-like feather decoration around her right shoulder is a point of interest, but she is more concerned about her natural body.

It has been a month since the school uniforms changed to winter uniforms.

Perhaps it was because I had become more reserved and less revealing in my casual clothes, but seeing them alive and active for the first time in a long time was "amazing.

That's one word for it.

Even in autumn weather, which should be familiar to most people, there is no telling how destructive it would have been to those who were seeing it for the first time.

Anyway, there is no doubt that it is effective for both men and women alike.

Selnia, who had just taken off her robe and was now in the center of the action, spoke into the microphone that Todoroki was holding out to her.

As you can see, I was dressed to the nines. The Flameharts, as the hostess mentioned earlier, are a venerable English noble family whose coat of arms is based on the motif of the Red Feathered Water Bird.

Ho ho ho I see, I see."

Todoroki nodded in admiration, but Akiharu could tell.

Unlike Tomomi's reaction earlier, the reason for her sluggish response is.

..... The sexy, bloviating host may have her eyes on the microphone, but her eyes are completely glued to Selnia's breasts.! As a man, I envy her... No, it's an embarrassing act. (alt: That erotic bokeh emcee, even though he's pointing the mic, his eyes are completely glued to Selnia's chest...! As the same man, I envy you — No, it's an embarrassing act.) I strongly believe that a red card and a heavy blow to the side of the head or face would be the correct punishment.

While feeling a little annoyed, Akiharu folded his arms and held back.

I was just warned by Deepan that I should not try to disrupt this event by my own actions.

Yes, you are not the only one who loses when you lose your temper.

I'm sure I'm annoying everyone else. "I have many hobbies, but the one I've recently taken up is skydiving. The feeling of falling while accelerating and the changing scenery around you is worth the risk of taking the plunge.

(alt: I don't want to cause trouble for everyone else... ``I have a lot of hobbies, but the one I started recently is skydiving. Even if it's a risk, it's worth it to fly.") I'm not sure I'm going to be able to do that. But that, and flying so many times a day, must be physically demanding, right?"

Of course that's true. In my case, I have a little confidence in my physical strength, so there is no problem at all.

"Oh, well, let's see some of your physical prowess, shall we? Actually, here's a nice item, a jump rope.

"..... what?"

I suddenly noticed the "Special Jury" on the desk.

The triangular plate with the words "TARGET" written on it was struck at Todoroki's face.

..... Wow, I did it.

Even if the program was going to resemble a late-night sexy variety show, there should have been a better way to do it.

My hand was moving almost unconsciously, as it always does.

While the audience was in an uproar over this situation, Akiharu looked at Fukayoshi sitting next to him with the intention of receiving a reprimand, while feeling self-deprecating.

The maid teacher, who is number one in terms of fear, beating both Tomomi and Selnia to the punch, naturally gave Akiharu a glazed-over look as if to say, "....."

I did not see him.

To be precise, they are looking this way.

However, there is no sign of anger in his eyes, despite his usual coldness.

This was quite unexpected and puzzling, but when I returned my gaze to the stage, Fukaba spoke to Akiharu in a whisper.

..... Not adequate, but good. If I had been a little later, I would have thrown my fountain pen."

"..... No, that's not safe, no matter how roaring.

(alt: "... No, no matter how much it roars, it's dangerous...") No need to worry, I was just going to let it cross a few millimeters in front of my eyes. The audience could not see what was happening, and there should have been no harm done.

(alt: "... don't worry, I was just going to cross a few millimeters in front of my eyes. The audience couldn't tell what had happened, and there shouldn't have been any real harm.") "..... is left or"

(alt: ".....Is it Mr. Left.....") Looking away from the teacher who was saying scary things, Akiharu let out a small breath.

I heard that it was a good thing.

Even Kaede, the chairman of the board of directors, is clapping her hands in delight at the endorsement.

..... The seats are still a little rough, but I'm fine, yeah.

As if to cancel out Akiharu's worry, Todoroki, who had been lying on the ground, stood up and said, "This is not going to stop me from hosting the beauty pageant! I'm afraid of the next bullet, so I'll give up jumping rope, but the feast has only just begun.

(alt: As if to erase Akiharu's worries, Todoroki, who had been lying on the ground, got up and said, "Well, I won't stop being a beauty pageant host! I'm afraid of the next bullet, so I'll give up jumping rope, but the feast has just begun. ...!") I can't say I give up much, you know, that pseudo-Kansai person.

But since the audience seemed to think it was just a sideshow, the atmosphere at the venue relaxed somewhat.

I am a little relieved about that, too.

The revived Todoroki waved his arms in the air and said, "Okay, next time, next time! Let's go!

"Hey! I Hama, Hah! Hah!

(alt: "Hey!? I'm...") Now, entry number three, what is Feng's daughter wearing?

Selnia's protests were almost completely ignored by the microphone, and since Todoroki turned the microphone to Feng, it seemed that the appeal time was now over.

As expected, Mr. Drill stared at me like a madman at

Wow. "Geez.

I'm looking at them with a feeling of, "Oh, my God, I'm so happy to be here.

I don't know if it's my fault, but I thought I saved him.

(alt: No, it might be my fault, but I thought I was going to save her.) No, wait.

Perhaps that guy in Selnia is oblivious to Todoroki's intentions?

It is possible because they are natural in a different sense from the Shikikagami sisters.

I almost chuckle at the thought, but then I realize that Selnia is still glaring at me, so I cover my mouth with my hand.

If I pour oil on the fire here, I'm sure I'll get a kick in the pants.

(alt: If I add oil to the fire here, it looks like I'll be hit by one of the jumping kicks.) Oh, there it is, the Chinese dress! You're a real Chinaman!"

"Oh, my grandfather gave me this to thank me for it."

While we were having a silly exchange of ideas on the outside, the Miss Contest was in progress, and Hou had already begun her presentation.

She was wearing a Chinese dress, which Akiharu had never seen before, with deep slits on both sides, making it a very sexy piece.

The dragon embroidery and the vivid colors that change from blue to indigo are also cool.

Moreover, Feng is tall and has long legs, and his shyness is quite attractive.

(alt: On top of that, Otori is tall and has long legs.) Once again, I wonder what the level of these people is.

The upper class is a group of top models, isn't it?

However, Hou is a bit shy, so I don't have a flashy image of her.

Rather, it is the tallness that inspires a desire for protection.

"..... Well, there's only one left."

(alt: "... Well, one more person?") Hou's appeal time will soon be over, and only the last big fish remains.

Akiharu is also a little, or rather, quite interested in what the extremely beautiful Saori Shikikagami is wearing.

After school uniforms, Western-style dresses, and Chinese dresses, what will come next?

Well, it's not impossible that they are in the same genre as other people, and there is also the possibility of cosplaying like Pina, which would be a big deal.

It's a bit of a stretch, but a bunny outfit would look good on her. If she doesn't have bunny ears on, she'll be gone before you know it.

(alt: It's kind of cliché, but it seems like it would look good in a bunny outfit or something like that... but when the bunny ears aren't attached, it disappears for a while.) I started to get curious about the answer, as if it were a quiz, and took a closer look at, but I still couldn't tell from the top of the poncho.

..... The line from the shoulders to the chest looks somewhat close to the bare line, but full body tights should not be the norm.

Hmm. -?

As Akiharu continued to stare at the outline of the clothes, he suddenly felt a tug on his sleeve from the side.

And when I turn around, there is a very, very stern, very determined, very complex technique of expressionless expression, and he is saying, "This is an emergency."

His voice was so hard and sharp that I almost apologized on reflex.

"Hey, what's with the?"

I'll spare you the details. Stop the progress now.

What? I don't know, but..."

Why doesn't Dr. Fukaba stop it?"

Before Akiharu could ask the question, Fukaba lowered her lip slightly and said, "..... I myself was told by the President not to stop the progress no matter what happens when negotiating the conditions for reducing the budget. However, since I am the only one who has been subjected to this unreasonable order, I will not violate my promise if you stop me."

It was a statement that was bordering on sophistry.

How is it that those of us in the position of educating people are able to give them a real experience of the depths of the world?

"Come on, come on, next and last! Entry number 16, the only top student, Shikikagami's daughter, what in the world is she wearing?

"....., stop Mr. Todoroki right now, no, stop Shikikagami first!

The unusually impatient voice of Fukaba made even Akiharu realize that this was not the time to be having leisurely thoughts.

I didn't know how to stop it, so I just got up from my chair and said, "..... huh?"

At that moment, an astonishing sight burst into my field of vision.

Saori was about to take off her poncho, smiling softly, when her shoulders were exposed for less than a second.

Seeing this, he finally understands the meaning of the word "quiet.

It was only for a moment, but it was definitely not a mistake.

What I saw now was bare skin.



And while I could see the indentation of her collarbone, I couldn't catch a glimpse of her shoulder straps or any other piece of clothing fabric.

(alt: Moreover, even though I could see the hollow of my collarbone, I couldn't even catch a glimpse of the fabric of my clothes, let alone the shoulder straps... That's what I mean.)
There is a high probability that he is not wearing anything under there.!

(alt: There's a high chance that she's not wearing anything underneath...!?) "Oh shit, wait, wait, stop, stop!"

The roars of the audience looked at Akiharu with doubtful eyes, while only Saori, who was the most important person in the room, looked at him with a smile.

It would be nice if that would stop my hands from trying to take them off, but they continue to work on undoing the knot at the back of my neck, which sucks.

The ribbons on the poncho can be undone with a hard pull, perhaps to make it easier to take off.

It is so simple that even a small child can do it.

And the poncho Saori was wearing, the knots were easily undone, and the white fabric fell off.

".....?"

(alt: 「 ? 」) "Nah.?!"

I'd like to see more of your work.

Akiharu was just in time before the cloth fell off.

However, the method was to stretch out and hug Saori squarely: Wow, the feeling of a soft object being crushed from the breastplate to the ribs, and the fabric on the back side having to be held in place, so the unavoidable touch of the waist and the soft texture underneath it, was a real treat. The soft touch of the softness of the fabric under it is!

Moreover, Saori wriggled uncomfortably and said, "I don't mind such aggressiveness in the public eye, do you?"

"No, no, no, no, no, you've got it all wrong,!"

Tactile sensations alone are more than enough to kill you if you try to rectify your terrible mistake, but if you look down, you'll see a very glamorous sight. Could this be the closest place to heaven in the world? "..... Autumn Sun, Kun?"

"What the hell are you doing, you miserable man?"

However, from the side, there was a deadly atmosphere that might cause the beasts of prey to raise the white flag.

No, wait! Take a good look, you know what's going on here!

"....., huh, you want to show off?"

"Oh, wow, you've got good taste. I like that!"

I'll beat up Roar with his thumbs later, but Tomomi with her moist eyes and Selnia with her raised eyebrows need to be dealt with right now.

Mainly, my dignity and my life are at stake.

I'm not sure what to make of the simple-minded drill, but a black-hearted honor student with good insight should be able to see the situation for what it is.

(alt: Or rather, putting aside the simple and straightforward drill, a wicked honor student with a high level of insight should be able to see the situation.) What is this, on purpose?

I don't know what the facts are, but all Akiharu could do was to explain desperately.

(alt: I don't know what the truth is, but Akiharu can only explain desperately.) No, because it's not! I mean, Saori-san, why are you wearing nothing underneath?

"Oh, I'm wearing shorts, aren't I?"

"Kamigami, what? No, I mean, what about your clothes?"

Although we tried to reason with them at the last minute and kept our voices down to a level that would not reach the audience, they should have been able to hear us on stage.

As proof, Selnia, who was about to grab me at any moment, was standing there as if she had been caught in the act.

Although he should be happy that he has achieved at least a minimum result, Akiharu is aware that he is still in a hopeless situation.

The most important problem is that "as you probably know, Mr. Hino, I had gotten rid of all my expensive clothes and jewelry due to debts from when my family fell into bankruptcy, and I didn't have any clothes that were appropriate for this occasion.

"But that doesn't mean you can't turn the tables on us by not wearing clothes!

But this is my lingerie for the competition, you know? You can see through them."

I don't need that kind of wicked information, just use your common sense and and quickly hold the cloth that's about to fall off by itself!"

The senior student's dimness in his arms was the worst enemy of all.

And the other one is, "No, no! You can't keep me all to yourself!

Some of you idiots are making a big fuss about it.

In any case, there was no indication that Saori would improve the situation on her own.

The women who want to do something about it instead are useless, either fretting, confused, or giving me cold stares.

The president of the board of directors was excited at the jury's table, and the audience was in an uproar.

The fact that they are under siege is too much of a devil.

In such a situation, Akiharu can't do anything on his own. "Well,, I guess the first round is finally over.

At that moment, I heard a voice full of narcissism echoing across the stage.

"....., no, give me a break,"

(alt: "... No, please excuse me...!") She was still in Saori's arms and couldn't pull away. She blurted out, only to move her head to look in the direction of the voice.

I wondered how long it had been in the works, but there he was, a happy fellow coming down from a few meters above the stage, holding on to a wire.

Miss Bai Liling Contest - Well, judging from the name, the most beautiful woman who is most suitable for Bai Liling may be chosen. However, if there really is someone with true beauty, then there is no need to make distinctions based on gender!

Slowly and dexterously grabbing the wire with only one hand, Daikichi comes down, and as usual, he is in top form and makes reckless remarks.

Someone should have told him to shove it.

Daikichi, who stepped on stage in his familiar all-white from top to bottom with red roses on his chest and right hand, hugged himself and said, "That is, this Kouichiro Kazamatsuri is worthy of being the winner of this beauty pageant!

He made a bold statement about the impossibility of a hundred percent.

One headache is enough, but this guy must really have been lurking on the catwalk at Why is it that the Bai Ling gang is so well prepared to surprise us with such a surprise attack...! What? As Akiharu was biting her teeth, Daikichi, who was in a great mood, winked at her and said, "However, Saori Shikkagami said that exposing your bare skin is what makes your beauty stand out the most, and your words made my heart tremble.

"Well,, did I say that?"

No, I didn't say that. And Saori, please stop touching me there.!

(alt: "No, I didn't say that... Also, Saori-san, please stop touching there...!") There were some senior students who could not read the situation, but they were still good.

"I will accept your challenge to compete in the physical beauty contest!"

What? Wait, wait, wait!

Just look at this body, the culmination of human beauty! It's so overpowering, you'll probably swoon, but you know what?

"Don't take off your clothes for me! Hey, Todoroki! Hurry up and stop that exhibitionist there! And take down the rug!

He gives instructions in a panic, but Akiharu is unable to make a move because he has another very dangerous person in custody.

Roark, who lacks a sense of crisis, does not make a move immediately, probably because the person he is stopping is a man.

Daikichi, with a look of delight on his face like a fresh athlete after a good workout, boldly removed his costume and - just in time to avoid being banned from the airwaves - managed to get off the rug.

..... Akiharu decided to assume that he had arrived just in time.

"Well, there's been a bit of a mishap, but we're going to the second round!

The Miss Contest was resumed, albeit with a short interruption of a little less than ten minutes.

Since we have eliminated the Daikichi idiots, they should not be back during this event.

That is, if he doesn't go Hollywood and hijack a helicopter for the transfer.

By the way, three first-year students - Tomomi, Selnia and Feng - advanced to the second round of judging.

In the end, it was not necessary to measure the sound of the applause, and the common sense conclusion was that Saori was eliminated from the competition.

The most likely candidate to win the championship is too "typical."

The audience only applauded sparsely, due to the fact that the show had to be cancelled due to a fire and a surprise intrusion by a member of the audience.

..... Well, Akiharu was partly saved by Daikichi's mistake.

It would have been difficult to make a clean break, and it would have shown that some of the upper-class students who attended the upper secondary school were also terrible.

The teachers, especially Fukagan, must have a headache.

As Akiharu sympathized with the maid teacher sitting next to him, Todoroki, who paid no attention to the subtle atmosphere between the audience and the judges' seats, began his explanation.

"The second round of judging will be a performance! Not only is she beautiful, but the queen of Hakuryo should be a person who excels in the arts as well. Whether it's a performance, a dance, or anything else, we'll have you showcase it!

"....., that's a relatively decent piece of content."

(alt: "... what is it, it's a relatively decent content.") Akiharu sits deep in his chair, expressing his honest impression.

I had been secretly holding an unopened plastic bottle under my desk so that I could snipe it at any time if he said something funny, but I'm glad I didn't use it.

Todoroki, who should not have known that he was being targeted, pointed ostentatiously to the judges' table with the hand not holding the microphone and said, "Now, the three special judges over here will each score the contestants on a ten-point scale, and the participant with a lower score than the other two will be eliminated!

The system was much easier to understand than the previous one.

That's the way it should have been from the beginning.

I checked the placards on the table and found eleven, ranging from zero to ten points.

....., but also for performing arts.

It is true that it is very much like Hakuryo.

Normally, I'd say, "What are your specialties?"

If you are good at singing, you may want to show off your flexibility or sing if you are good at singing.

But this is a prestigious school among prestigious schools.

What is expected is a proper musical performance, a vocal performance, a Japanese dance performance, and so on.

As I had imagined, I felt a little depressed about the autumn weather.

I don't have the slightest confidence that I, as an average person, can give an accurate score.

Thanks to the quiet classes, I have gradually learned how to handle luxury goods and party etiquette, but the field of art is still untouched.

I will probably have to study for the second or third year, but the reality is that I don't know anything at this point in my life.

(alt: Maybe if I advance to the second or third year, I'll have to study in that direction as well, but as a matter of fact, I don't know anything about it.) So it can't be helped that I feel depressed, but there is another thing that bothers me.

"Come on, let's go! What is the top batter, Saikei's daughter, going to do?

Although Tomomi is much better than Akiharu, it is interesting to see how Tomomi, who has only been a young lady for a short time, will get through this.

As I watched with excitement, Tomomi opened her mouth in front of the microphone that Todoroki held out to her with a smile that seemed to suggest that she could afford it.

I couldn't tell you earlier, but one of my hobbies is reading poetry books. One of my favorite poems is by the French poet Paul Valéry, and I would like to sing a poem by him called "The Honeybee.

Tomomi took the microphone from Todoroki and held it in front of her chest.

He didn't begin immediately, but closed his eyes, and the concentration he showed naturally created a quiet tension in the hall.

Tomomi slowly opened her eyes and began to sing.

The voice coming out of his childhood friend's mouth, Akiharu didn't say out loud, "Is that so?"

He mutters.

The poem that Tomomi is singing was apparently written by a Frenchman, so it must be in French.

Of course, Akiharu does not understand French, so there is no proof, but at least there is no doubt that it is not English.

In the stillness of the room, the voices spun with emotion echoed through the microphones.

The absence of any background music gave it a somewhat sacred atmosphere.

I have to say, this is good.

Since her mother remarried, Tomomi may have learned to play an instrument and dance to some extent, but she is still inferior in many ways to her pure-bred counterparts from birth.

However, it should be difficult even for the upper class to tell whether a poet is a good reader or a bad one.

If it's not in Japanese, that's even worse.

Tomomi's mind can memorize a poem or two in one night's soaking, and she can even manage French by spinning it as if she were singing Western music.

It also creates an intellectual image that reinforces the image of an honor student, killing two birds with one stone.

Tomomi must have made this choice with that much thought in mind.

One drawback is that it is difficult for the judges to produce a perfect score. Well, it is still better than competing in a performance that you are not good at.

(alt: The downside is that it's hard for the judges to get a perfect score, but even so, it's still better than competing with a performance you're not good at.) The poem by Mr. Something from France was over in about two or three minutes.

After she spins out her last words, Tomomi smiles in relief and bows her head deeply.

After a beat, the audience gave a thunderous round of applause, to which Todoroki, who was given the microphone back, waved his arms as if he were speaking for himself and said, "Ya-ya-ya, that was a brilliant reading! I couldn't understand what you were trying to say, but I knew it was nice!

I am quite angry that I feel exactly the same way.

Although she was very depressed, Akiharu quickly regained her composure and began to search for the items in her hand.

Now, the long-awaited judging time is here! How many points will the judges give to Saikyo's daughter's performance?

When he found the bill he was looking for, he was told that it was a "7", which was very well timed.

The placard reads in large letters, "We are here to help you.

We have a total of 21 items on with 7s, 8s, and 6s!

To be honest, I don't know how many points to give this kind of thing, so I thought, "Well, it's okay.

(alt: To be frank, I don't know how many points I should give to this, so I thought, "Well, that's fine.") I tried to make the score about 1.5.

This was not a bad result since it took the space between the two, the "quiet" and the "maple".

However, I was still curious about the judging standards of the other two, so Akiharu asked the teachers beside him in a whisper.

"..... Hey, how did you get that score?"

..... because I don't really like this poem.

(alt: "...Because I don't really like this poem.") There were a few subtle errors in the pronunciation of, but nothing too bad.

The responses were so varied in terms of emotional and technical aspects that Akiharu regretted not asking the question.

It's not as if Kaede, who can listen to French like a native speaker but has only ever shown herself to be a bit of a bonkers person, had told me that she didn't like the poem.

We had never even heard of the author! Next up is entry number two, Selnia's daughter. Your first piece was a literary one, but what are you going to do now?

Although her dignity as a human being or something important has been damaged and her eyes are distant, Akiharu gathers his strength and focuses on Selnia, who comes to the front of the stage with a confident expression on her face.

I am a jury member, so I have to keep an eye on things.

And if they find out that you didn't see it, you have no idea what they will say about you later.

I would never choose a performance in which the criteria for judgment are so ambiguous. Among my many specialties, I will use a simple and familiar instrument to play a famous song that everyone knows!

I'm really looking forward to it. So, what's the instrument you're going to use?"

Of course it's a violin!

With a victor's smile on her face, Selnia declared, "I'm very proud of this drill, and I'm going to run it backwards with my hand.

I see. It's easy to tell the good from the bad with a violin.

No, I don't know, but I'm sure it's clear to those with better ears.

(alt: No, I don't know it myself, but it should be clear to those with discerning ears.) Even Akiharu said, "Oh, I feel like I'm doing well.

I think it would be possible to make a judgment as to whether or not the company is a good fit for the project.

However, I wonder if that driller is really confident enough to bring up such an instrument.

.....

(alt: However, to bring out such an instrument... Are you really confident with that drill?) That curled up hair is a distraction from playing the violin.

As Akiharu watched this remarkable development, Selnia held out her hand toward Todoroki with her usual graceful and excessive gesture.

I'm going to play Bach's "Aria on the G line" and I'm going to perform it beautifully.

"Oh, I've heard of that before. That's a famous song, right?"

Yes, so you can understand my skill. Now, would you be so kind as to bring me my violin?

Todoroki, on the other hand, was so elated that he asked, "Go to? What? You don't have it, do you?"

Her eyes fluttered, and then she responded.

This was a surprise, and Selnia's attitude, which could be described as arrogant, was shaken as she said, "You can't possibly have that with you, can you? Your baggage is in the way, and your favorite violin is at home at"

"Well, you know, I told you that yesterday at the meeting, didn't I? If you're going to handle any instruments, you'd better have them ready yourself, or you'd better tell us."

You're not listening to, are you? I've never heard of it!

"I said! What's the matter with you, miss? I told you there's nothing wrong!"

Akiharu did not fail to notice that Selnia's expression twisted awkwardly for a moment at that comment.

I guess that driller was so focused on Tomomi that he didn't listen to the meeting properly.

But he only responded in a clear and crisp manner.

He seemed to have an idea of what was going on, but instead of pursuing further responsibility, he said, "Well, if it's, then, you know, Piano, I'm sorry, but I can't help it. I'll play the piano for you!"

(alt: He seems to have something on his mind, and without further accusing him of responsibility, he says, "Kuh... then, the piano. I'll play the piano instead!") No, there is no piano either. That's the whole point. What is the situation where you can bring a piano but not a violin?

When Todoroki immediately responded, Selnia seemed more and more agitated and said, "..... Okay, then I'll show you how to dance!

Yes, but the only sound source is the background music I used earlier. It's just that slow stuff.

Why is that all you have? Can't you at least find a song that can match the tempo of a waltz?

Oh, I've got that. A rap-arranged version of Soran Bushi.

Why are there so many of them?

We just happen to have our own monks!"

..... Hey, what's this?

There's a limit to how long things can go on.

The microphone that Todoroki is holding is picking up their voices, which means that everyone in the hall is listening to their ineffable conversation.

The audience must have been even more amused than Akiharu was, since he was so amazed at the show.

I think if we announce that this is how the communication at Hakuryo is going on everyday, instead of convincing, they will encourage their children and relatives to transfer to another school.

If things continue as they are, there is no way out of this.

And since the man next to me, Fukagan, has begun to develop a dangerous mood, we must make some kind of progress immediately or we will get into trouble.

Hey, how long are you guys going to keep on doing your comic strips? Before things get any worse, let's get on with it.

No one is going to...

"..... Oh, my God, you did that!"

(alt: "... Oooh, you did it!") In the middle of this helpful advice, Selnia was about to respond angrily, when Roar's crazy voice interrupted her.

And with a big smile on his face, he posed as if he were hailing.

Akiharu said, "The time has finally come."

The scenery was so strange that it made us worry about the future of the city.

Also, his smile is creepy.

I know, I know, I know! That's what you mean, missy!"

"What the hell is that,?"

Even Drill, who is good at pushing with spirit and vigor, was a bit withdrawn, and for some reason, he held up his thumb and said in a loud voice, "I'm not sure why.

(alt: Even Drill, who is good at pushing with vigor and momentum, turned back slightly, and for some reason gave a big thumbs up and declared in a loud voice.) So, this is what the young lady was showing off!

"....., hmmm?"

No, no, no. I've been totally taken for a ride. If I had realized that earlier, I would have said something a little more interesting, you know?

..... No, that can't be true.

It would have been easy to tell the difference at first glance had he seen Selnia's mouth agape in exclamation, but unfortunately, Shinzo Todoroki was too much of an idiot to see the difference.

While Akiharu was stunned by this crazy development, Todoroki, who was in a great mood, turned to the judges' seat and said, "Then let's start the judging right away! I wonder how many points we can get for the number two entry, a comedy act using a host?"

What? Tell me that it's not true.

Selnia protests furiously while choking Todoroki from behind. Unfortunately, it's too late. (alt: Selnia protests fiercely while strangling Todoroki's neck... Unfortunately, it's too late.) As Shinkan and Kaede raised their placards for scoring, Akiharu followed suit.

"Oh, is of "1", "1", and "3" only 5 points? I think it should be a little more, don't you?

Who's fault is it, who's it? In the first place, I am still Hahn."

Then, the screening is over. Let's go on to the next one. What the hell is entry number three going to do for us?"

"Kokko-ko."

I thought she was going to scream and punch or kick me, but she simply dropped her hands, which were clenched tightly, and shook her shoulders.

Maybe he didn't realize that it was futile to sue them, but he just got so angry that he had to stop in various ways.

The proof is in the stares.

Akiharu looked away from the fire as if he were looking at the source of all kinds of evil, not to mention the avenger of his parents.

..... Oh my God, you have eyes that hold so much resentment.

If I want to kill someone, I have to be sure that I'm dead confident.

Obviously, "It's your fault!"

I think it's common sense that the problem lies with the person who didn't listen to the meeting properly, but I don't know.

(alt: I'm appealing with my eyes... I think it's common sense that the problem is with the person who didn't listen properly in the meeting, but what do you think?) In fact, "Najie, I play the erhu."

Feng, who had been standing offstage, handed over his instrument to a student and began to play.

Tomomi's expression is clear, but her eyes say, "Good grief!

I'm not sure if it's a good idea or not, but I'm not sure.

(alt: I'm just saying.) Anyway.

Although Akiharu could not tell how well Feng played the erhu, a stringed instrument he had never heard of before, he personally liked the sound.

So, after you're done, you'll be able to use the "8".

(alt: So, after finishing, "8") The placard of the "I am a member of the

The elimination of the three players was decided at that point, without the need to compare the scores of the three players.

The "Reibi Festival" was competed by only four participants.

The first Miss Contest event was over in about 40 minutes.

The final judging, which narrowed the field down to two contestants, was a quiz that required the contestants to be not only beautiful but also intelligent.

However, the winner of the contest was not necessarily the Miss Contest champion, but the winner with the highest number of votes was chosen as the first Miss Hakuryo by the audience and judges, taking into account the results of the contest.

As for which of the two was chosen, "Well, I think it was a relatively strong contender.

Is that so? I hate to say it, but the vote margin was pretty wide."

There was very little time to clean up, so Akiharu was walking with Tomomi out the back door while they talked about such things.

In the end, Feng was elected as the first Miss Hakuryo by nearly 400 votes.

Since I was almost involved in the event, I was a little embarrassed to receive the laurel wreath and bouquet, but still looked a little happy, so I hope this will give me a little confidence.

(alt: I was involved in most of the events, so even if I was handed a laurel wreath or a bouquet of flowers, I would feel flustered and frustrated. I think it would be fine.) However, what is worrisome is that Tomomi does not look too disappointed at having to settle for second place.

He is a very competitive person, and since he was the overwhelming winner in the last round, it would not be surprising if he had become a bit of a bum.

In response to our question, "Hmmm...?"

Tomomi, who was stretching, smiled wryly and said, "About 20% of the people in the audience were Hou-san's relatives. I'm not so smug as to think I can win in such a situation.

He made such a shocking statement.

Akiharu blinked widely several times and then scurried around like a man who had just come out of his burrow.

Twenty percent of the audience is family? Twenty percent, nearly twenty percent of that nearly full multi-purpose hall? Even though the hall can accommodate 1,500 people, 20 percent of the audience nodded their heads and said, "Twenty percent is 300 people. If only your relatives can come, how can you be so foolish?

You can't just go to and measure a country that is overpopulated and causing headaches the same way that we do. Mr. Feng has eight siblings and his father also has seven siblings, and the family ties are very strong. That's why he would charter a jumbo jet to come to Japan just to see his relatives who are working hard in a foreign country.

"..... and seriously, how many"

It's like looking at it from the stage. If there had been a limit of third-degree parents, this should not have happened. Well, it was difficult to win even if we had won on the basis of strength alone, so we had no choice.

(alt: "From what I've seen from the stage, you know. If there was a limit of being within the third degree, it wouldn't have turned out like this, but... Well, it would have been difficult to win even in a match based on physical strength alone, so it can't be helped. wow") I see... ..

(alt: "Ha - I see.") Is it because Japan is the most populous country in the world?

Without it, the two teams would have been evenly matched or Feng would have had a slight advantage, which would have resulted in a significant boost to the game.

As Akiharu admires the vastness of the invisible world, he says, "It's a little disappointing, even for"

The previously cheerful tone of Hahnemi suddenly toned down and said something like that. What about...?" What?"

I wasn't really interested in becoming Miss Hakuryo in the first place, but I guess I was wrong and it turned out to be too much of a surprise.

"..... means..."

(alt: ".....meaning,") I have no idea," he said, before Akiharu continued.

The back door, which should have been deserted, was filled with the sound of high-pitched, bouncy voices.

It was a complete disaster!

".....

"..... Oh, no."

(alt: "..... Oh") I turned around to see a certain blonde drill man, whom I don't want to see the most, walking toward me at a brisk pace.

The purpose is clear from the glistening eyes.

Today is the day they might kill us.

And while the drilling alone is more trouble than it's worth, Tomomi, who is with him, turns up the corners of her mouth just a little and smiles, as if she's up to something.

As Akiharu stood there with a tense expression on his face wondering what was going to happen, Selnia, who had turned into a lump of discontent, glared at him strongly from a close distance.

"What do you really mean, Autumn Sun? Don't tell me you were sent here as an operative to prevent me from winning?

"No, it's just a beauty pageant, and you're not going to do anything about it! I mean, it's mostly because you're careless and unguarded."

Are you going to shift the blame?

..... Oh, isn't that what Ms. Selnia is doing?"

Tomomi further provoked her angry opponent, who was turning red and was furious with her. I would like you to stop doing that, because it makes things difficult for me.

Tomomi smiled wickedly at Selnia, who seemed not to have taken Akiharu's feelings into consideration, and said, "Even if you could make a decent appeal, there is no guarantee that you would win. And yet, you're putting your own mistakes behind you"

Why did you do that? You underestimated me as a person of that caliber, and who was it that lost when you could have made a real appeal?

I didn't want an undeserved result, so I was satisfied with second place. It's just a shame we didn't get what we wanted."

Tomomi's answer, delivered with a sociable smile on her face, gave me a hard time, and my breathless drilling stopped.

Her brow wrinkles and her flushed cheeks harden, as if she's swallowing something she can't put down.

From her reaction, Selnia may have some answer in mind, but Akiharu was completely unaware of it.

On the one hand, they say they are satisfied with second place, but on the other hand, they say they have not achieved their goal.

I've known him for a long time that he's not only smart, but also a bit of a hard-ass, but this one in particular just doesn't make sense to me.

..... What are you thinking?

I don't have anything grandiose in mind. I told you that a few days ago.

Tomomi's eyes, which looked very happy, shifted to Akiharu, who was watching the situation with a nervous look on his face, and said, "I simply wanted to know which of the judges, Akiharu-kun, would choose when he weighed me and Ms. Selnia.

".....!"

(alt: "...!?") "..... is it?"

Tomomi's words made Selnia react as if she had been tricked into drinking a mixture of various seasonings. Akiharu, on the other hand, could only nod his head.

(alt: At Tomomi's words, Selnia reacted as if she had been tricked into drinking a mixture of various seasonings, but... As for Akiharu, she had no choice but to tilt her head.) What do you mean by "weighing"?

Certainly, if the judges had finally decided to select Miss Hakuryo, and if Tomomi and Selnia had remained at that time, such a situation might have arisen, but even if we were told which to choose

.....

..... Oh, Re? Which one should I choose? Suddenly, a difficult question came out of the blue, and Akiharu felt suffocated.

I think that since it's a beauty pageant, appearance should be the most important factor, and even if we take into account the fact that she's more ladylike, Selnia comes out on top. But even though she's a little bit black-hearted, Tomomi has her good qualities too, like her caring nature. Tomomi also has good qualities, such as a caring side, and above all, she didn't make any mistakes at the beauty contest. The answer I thought would come out easily, but for some reason, it didn't come out as if it was jammed in.

(alt: Of course, since it's a beauty pageant, I think that appearance should be emphasized, and even if you take into consideration the high degree of ladylikeness, the winner goes to Selnia. She also has a good side of her, and above all, she didn't make any mistakes at the beauty pageant... For some reason, she didn't come up with an answer that she thought would come out easily.) Tomomi, who was watching this situation, deepened her smile and continued to say more.

I'd like to ask you something. "Well, let me ask you something... who would you vote for, me or Ms. Selnia?

"Why, that's ridiculous.!"

I don't mean to be rude. It's just a sideshow."

As the story progressed on its own, Akiharu felt even more cornered.

What is this? What is this? What is this? I don't remember doing anything wrong, so why am I under so much pressure!

Your heart begins to beat in an unpleasant way, and you become so restless that you are clearly aware of it.

Oh no, I'm in trouble as it is.

If you were to ask me now, I would probably choose one of the two options that are presented to me, even though I don't have a clear answer.

..... Somehow, deep down inside, I found myself desperately pleading with myself not to do it.

To the blank-faced Akiharu, her childhood friend, an honor student, slowly and impatiently opens her well-shaped lips, and says, "— — Oh, my, isn't this a very enjoyable situation?

The sudden voice coming from behind him made Akiharu, who had been driven into a corner, tremble.

Of course it's not Tomomi's voice, it's someone else's, but it sounds familiar.? And just before she was about to say something, Tomomi's face took on an unusual expression of surprise.

If you were to come face to face with a boar of the mountain's master class in the middle of a fun picnic, this must be how it would go.

When Akiharu turned around to follow her gaze at this very interesting response, he saw a woman standing there who appeared to be around 30 years old.

She is a beautiful woman with shoulder-length black hair and wears a navy blue suit, giving her an intelligent and calm atmosphere.

Just like the voice, I felt like I remembered seeing her somewhere, so I went to to try to find out who she was from my memory.

Whoa mother?

"....., no?"

Hearing Tomomi's voice, which almost sounds like a scream, Akiharu immediately remembers.

Yes, this is Mikako, Tomomi's mother.

I had met her many times when I was a child, so I vaguely remembered her, and if I looked closely, I could see some similarities between her and Tomomi.

However, I wonder if it's the difference in age, or if she has an even more unruly atmosphere than Tomomi.? Wait,, why, you should not be able to come today,?

"Oh, yeah, that's a lie. I thought I'd surprise you by going out of the blue."

"Oh,, another one of those inscrutable pranks!"

"Oh, well, there's nothing we can do about that, is there? Because I'm fun."

While Akiharu was suddenly overwhelmed by the reunion after a long time, the conversation between mother and child was unfolding.

..... Yes, they are definitely father and son.

I didn't think about it that much in the past, but we are basically the same in personality.

Furthermore, Tomomi's guy forgot to play the honor student, how upset he must be.

..... It's a bit sunny in autumn. What's the meaning of this?

While Akiharu was stunned with surprise and dismay, Selnia, who had quietly come to his side, spoke to him in a whisper.

I listen back to them, making sure they can't hear me, since we were both out of the mosquito net in just a few seconds.

"..... what is, what is."

(alt: "... what is it, what is it") I know that she is Tomomi's mother, but what does that tell you about Tomomi's attitude?"

I'm going to go to "..... Ahh. He's always had a hard time with his mother, or maybe it's because he can't stand her.

"I can hear you, Akiharu-kun?"

..... I've been paying close attention, but I can't hear you at that volume.

What kind of hell ears do you have?

Tomomi's eyes were angry and she looked a little embarrassed, but it seemed that even Tomomi couldn't help but be conscious of the fact that she was in front of her mother.

Could this be a chance for to redeem itself? Tomomi should not be attacked so forcefully and insidiously now.

Even if you get double the payback later, all you need is the memory of your victory, and that memory will make most things bearable.! But before you go ahead and put such a dark idea into action, you should know that you are not the only one who can do it.

(alt: Even if you get doubled later, what you need is the fact of victory, and if you have that memory, you can endure most things...! — — but before putting such a dark idea into action.)
Long time no see, right, Hino Akiharu? Do you remember me?

Mikako, the mother of Mr. Harakuro, had turned her gaze on him before he knew it.

"Hi! Of course!

Well, I'm glad to hear that. I had heard about it from Tomo, but I see that you have grown up. She used to be so small and white in color, and the red school bag and flower patches didn't look out of place, but things change, don't they?

..... Wow, the psychic attack has spread to us too.

Mikako was smiling nostalgically, but Akiharu was just too embarrassed to argue with her.

I used to inadvertently call her "Auntie."

I can't even take him seriously, because I remember what happened when I called him a "douchebag"! Mikako approached with a smile on her face, while Akiharu was still very uncomfortable, but could not avert his gaze because he was a superior and scary person.

..... Yes, I've really grown up. We have a lot to talk about, but we don't have much time today.
(alt: "...Yeah, he's really grown up. There's a lot to talk about, but we don't have much time today.") Is that so? Then, mother, you'd better go home soon, wouldn't you?"

She's as cold as ever. But, well, that's all right. Let's keep the fun for now.

".....?"

Tomomi and Selnia both raised their eyebrows at this meaningful comment.

Mikako, who easily took control of the scene, smiles at Akiharu.

With a mischievous smile that one would not expect from someone with a high school daughter, he said, "Right, Akiharu? Please come to my house for the next consecutive holidays. Of course, stay the night.

They said things to me that I did not expect to hear.

What is more surprising is that it is neither a suggestion nor an invitation, but an order. How much of a dominatrix is she?

Mikako's tyranny didn't stop there, as she looked at the pouting Selnia and said, "Just in time, Flameheart girl. You come with us."

"What am I, too,?"

I remember when Tomo visited you at the beginning of the summer vacation, didn't she? It's not that I want to repay that visit, but I've been thinking about inviting you over for a while now."

I appreciate your concern, but it's too hasty.

Yes, Mother. It would be wise to stop it.

Tomomi heard Selnia's puzzled words and urged her to stop, as if to say, "This is the place to do it.

It is unusual that Tomomi is so desperate.

When Akiharu was watching with bated breath to see what she would do in the face of her daughter's opposition, she said, "Well, if it's a nuisance, I can't help it. But, hey, Akiharu? Are you a nuisance?"

If asked such a question, Akiharu's answer is obvious.

Of course, I'm not trying to be a nuisance!

Without hesitation, I responded immediately in one second.

Tomomi blatantly says, "You betrayed me!"

But I can't help it.

There is a hierarchy in the world.

Mikako was pleased with Akiharu's answer, which was based on self-preservation.



If Tomo and Selnia can not come, then there is nothing I can do. Akiharu, next consecutive holidays, let's spend them together with me, okay?

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) "..... ツ."

(alt: ".....") They responded in different ways to the provocation, which they were not quite sure what it was.

Tomomi's expression became one of frustration.

Selnia bit her lip in determination.

Then, almost at the same time, "I guess we should just go."

I thank you very much for your invitation.

In a fit of desperation, he declared his intention to enter the war.

Mikako Saikei smiled happily at the colorful reply, and said, "..... What? After all, why did you do this?"

No one answered the words muttered by Akiharu, who was just completely swept along with the flow.