

The first time I decided to enter the high school of Hakuryo College, I had no idea that I would have to spend such a long time in the school.

I met again a childhood friend with whom I had a history who had transferred to another school when I was in elementary school.

I met a blonde drill girl on the first day, and she was involved with me in every way possible.

The versatile and petite classmate who becomes his roommate gradually becomes more and more comfortable with him.

I also have to take care of my sisters who are beautiful and stylish but clumsy and have no life skills, make friends and do creative activities with a genius painter who looks like an elementary school student and a nerdy princess from another country, have my life and future threatened by a Middle Eastern squire-slave duo, get help from a tall but shy Chinese woman, have a bonkers but lovable chancellor and a super cool maid teacher, and have a bunch of people I probably would never meet if I went to a normal high school. There's a bonkers but lovable chancellor and a super cool maid teacher. There's a group of people you'll probably never meet in your life if you go to a normal high school, and you spend your days so intense that you never have time to relax, getting into all sorts of trouble.

(alt: In addition, I take care of sisters who are beautiful with outstanding style but are clumsy and have zero living ability, make friends with a genius painter who looks like an elementary school student and an otaku princess from a foreign country, and do creative activities, etc. A duo almost robbed me of my life and future, I got a lot of help from the tall but shy Chuka-san, I had a bossy but lovable chairman and a super cool maid teacher... maybe that's normal. When I went to high school, there were people I would never meet, and I spent my days lazy and busy, and got into all sorts of trouble.) I have more memories than I can hold in my arms, but I am sure that by the time I graduate, I will have more than I can fit into a large trunk case.

But that is still a long way off.

Now we have to settle a matter.

From here to the next stage, to move on to a new stage.

I had a feeling that something was probably going to happen soon.

It wasn't that I was feeling the calm before the storm, but rather that I had witnessed the President laughing in a strange and amusing manner several times yesterday.

So Akiharu was not panicking or making a fuss in a classroom filled with obedience students, but listening to the words of Fukayasu, who was standing on the podium, and Kaede, who was uselessly folding her arms beside her.

I know it's sudden, but I'm going to hold the last math test of the school year this Saturday! Are you ready for it?"

I'm not sure I can answer that question. I'm always on a roll. last? It's only February this weekend.

The same light tone of voice is used by Todoroki to reply to the Chairman's question.

It was not Kaede who responded, but rather Haya, who was dressed in her indigo maid's outfit again today.

As you said, the next exam will be the last exam of the first year. That means there will be no examinations in March. Do you need to explain why?"

Akiharu nodded his head as he said this while looking around the entire room.

I don't know what the reason is, but I'm sure you won't regret asking.

(alt: I don't know why, but I'm sure you won't regret hearing it.) The other students seemed to share the same judgment, with Sanke beside Todoroki nodding their heads in agreement, and most of the girls had similar reactions.

Only Daichi, however, remained expressionless and motionless.

..... Since the last time I was sick and missed a class, a cold war has been raging between me and the university.

That's why I didn't sit next to anyone today. I was in the front row, and I said, "Don't let anyone get close to me.

He was sitting alone, exuding an aura.

The exam is important, but we have to do something about it at the earliest possible time.

.....

(alt: The exams are important, but I have to do something about it sooner rather than later... Akiharu was seriously thinking about this, but Fukagawa's calm voice reached his ears.) The graduation ceremony is held in early March, and the closing ceremony a few days later. Therefore, there is not enough time to take the examinations.

Um, do you have a second one?

Shikikagami raised her hand and asked, "Another reason is that the last exam is also a promotion exam. In other words, depending on the result of the exam, it is impossible to advance to the next level. There will be no follow-up examinations, and since we do not allow students to stay in school, they will be forced to leave the school.

..... something so simple, I was told something very important.

The classroom is quiet, but I can assure you.

It's all just too much of a surprise and inability to react.

Because I'm the same way.

While Akiharu and the others were at a loss for words, Fukayoshi continued to talk without losing his clerical tone.

However, there may be times during the exam when we will ask for help from upper division students. Your performance on the placement exam will determine whether you will be promoted or not, based on your performance in the classes and on the exam.

..... If there is no follow-up exam, there is a possibility that you will fail the exam at the first try, right? What if you get sick, or have a legal obligation, or something of that nature and can't attend?"

While thinking that this was already taken into consideration, Akiharu asked, "If you fail to attend a meeting due to unavoidable circumstances, you will receive the lowest score. If you are absent due to illness or other reasons, we will deduct points from your grade, and depending on your past performance, you may be expelled from school.

The kind and gentle chancellor will give you a few tips, but if your child has participated in all of the exams so far, he or she should be good enough to advance even if you are absent.

..... Mr. President, please don't say unnecessary things. It will dampen morale."

But if you try too hard, you might get hurt, or if you're sick and you do something reckless, that's not good for us.

Kaede made an unusually reasonable point, and Fukagan did not seem to have any objection to it and did not respond in any extreme way.

However, for Akiharu, the information is not that greatly positive.

I am not confident about my grades, so if I am a little sick or injured, I will push through the exam.

I was thinking that it would have been better if you had at least told me the specifics of the test so that I could have planned how to deal with it, and I was disappointed. Please do not overdo it, but please make sure that you are prepared so that you will not be sick on the day of the exam."

..... I heard some unfunny and important information, and my mind instantly went blank.

It seems that Akiharu was not the only one who was astonished, as there were murmurs and signs of tension here and there in the classroom.

The only exceptions are Daichi and the Shikikagami.

Well, in Shikikagami's case, he is probably just spacing out.

Let's put aside such a natural screw-up.

Akiharu is also worried about his performance, so he has no choice but to do his best, but the others will also become serious.

Since promotion and expulsion were at stake, it was probably an all-out confrontation from the start, but it is not surprising that some would go beyond their best efforts to squeeze out more than their best.

A crisp air begins to fill the classroom, but soon it is broken by a cheerful voice.

What the heck, they are all taking their own lives. You're doing what you're supposed to be doing on a daily basis, so it won't be so easy to get expelled!

It was Todoroki who uttered the hopeful line, deliberately stroking his all-back hair and smiling a very nice smile.

It is a statement that gives courage to everyone, and it is much better than being insecure.

I think that is commendable.

However, perhaps the one thing we all had in common was that we thought, "Your enthusiasm is great, Mr. Todoroki."

"Oh, what is it, sensei? If you're interested in me, and you want to have a forbidden relationship with me, I'll accept your invitation any time you want.

You will be expelled if you do not perform exceptionally well on your exams. I recommend that you make up your mind and work hard.

With a single word of reality, Todoroki's tongue was stopped in its tracks.

He flashes his eyes a few times, and then he can't bear to look at the stupid face with his glasses out of alignment.

..... Wai?"

"With the participation rates and results of previous P.E. exams, the problematic behavior of our female students, and the number of complaints we receive on a daily basis from, it's no surprise."

..... What? Seriously? It's not "akkie", it's "me"!

"No, wait, I don't want to be compared to you."

I absolutely do not want to be put in the same category as the idiots who want to break the boundaries of common sense.

It should be much better than the roar of the crowd.

When Akiharu was thinking about, she said, "But, Akiharu-san is also subject to various penalties, you know? The participation rate in the examination is high, but if you are not careful, you might get into trouble.

The president made a shocking and inadvertent comment.

"..... え? Talking?"

I am sure you are right," said Mr. Hino. In Ms. Hino's case, since the points were deducted based on her performance in service projects and some of the students' appeals, there is a good chance that she will not reach the standard line if her placement exam results are not good enough.

Akiharu is utterly lost in the calm words of the quiet man.

..... No, I didn't think I would have an easy time advancing to the next level, but I didn't realize that's how far I had to go.

I have no intention of underestimating the situation, but it seems to have been much worse than I had imagined.

As Akiharu's expression became as tense as Todoroki's, we heard the cheerful voice of the board chairperson, who was not reading the situation.

"Well, well, well, that's why... Please don't make any plans to go out on Saturday, okay? It's a big event before the graduation ceremony, and the whole school will be watching.

Yes, the tone of the voice is light, but the content is nothing but pressure.

Since when did butlers and maids become roles for the masses to watch?

While feeling unconvinced, Akiharu let out a big breath and then thought about the exam again.

This weekend means that on the last Saturday in February, an exam will be held to determine whether you will become a sophomore or leave Hakuryo.

The content is unknown, but as long as there is an audience, it can probably be done on school grounds and should not be a test that lasts for hours.

I don't know the specifics, but if it is a combination of the extreme setting that pushes the boundaries of quietness and the president's momentum and spontaneous, interesting ideas, then is sure to be a hard and difficult one to follow.

(alt: I don't know the specifics, but if it's a combination of a harsh setting that attacks the last minute of deep silence, the president's momentum, and an interesting idea that just comes to mind... it's going to be hard and not easy. do not have.) If you are not in perfect physical condition, the worst is possible.

Specifically, withdrawal from the course.

Even that alone is a big problem, but there is another problem that Akiharu is facing.

The time limit has not yet expired, but we must make a decision soon.

There is a limit to how long you can put off answering a question, and it doesn't make you feel better.

Tomomi Aikyo and Selnia Iori Flameheart - it was time to respond to the confessions they had received from their two classmates.

After school the day after the exam was announced, Akiharu was working hard at a service project by himself.

Instead of serving in the familiar cafeteria or café terrace, my duty today is to clean a rarely visited church near the stable, and I've been at it for almost two hours now.

The wooden floors were swept with a broom, and the other altars were swept with water and then wiped dry.

Working silently in a quiet place and running around in the hills behind the school after a hard day's work, I feel mildly fatigued.

However, I was quite grateful that I didn't have to think about anything else when I was quietly doing simple work by myself.

In addition, Akiharu's personal problems were still unresolved, so working physically was a nice change of pace for her.

At times like this, I would feel more at ease if I could talk to my roommate Daichi, who has been getting excellent grades and is almost certain to advance to the next level. Unfortunately, Daichi is the most difficult person to talk to among the current students, so I can't relax even in my room.

(alt: At times like this, if I could talk to my roommate, Daichi, who has excellent grades and should be almost guaranteed to be promoted to the next grade, I would lose my mind... Unfortunately, I am currently the most talkative of all the secondary education students. It's the land that makes it difficult, so I can't calm down even in my room.) A while ago, I got sick and missed a day of school, which upset the local community, and since then we haven't been able to have a proper conversation.

The next day, the anger seemed to have subsided, but he was also uncomfortable, so he moved his meals and school hours, and even though we live in the same room, the only time we spend together is when he is sleeping.

I thought it was a bad idea, but it was almost impossible to catch up with them when they were really running away.

He's also good at disguising his presence.

There were even times when I wondered why he didn't come home, and before I knew it, he was asleep in his bed.

It would be normal to think that an apology would be better served by leaving a letter or a note, but this is also difficult to do.

I still don't know why Daichi was so angry.

In such a situation, simply offering words of apology is frivolous and may have the opposite effect.

So my relationship with Daichi has been strained, and with yesterday's announcement, it has become even more so with my other colleagues. As a result, I feel most at home when I am working alone, like a businessman in the middle of a cold war, with a broken home.

I don't know... I guess it's all my fault.

(alt: "I don't know... it's all my own business, I guess.") While washing the rag with a bucket of water, Akiharu blurted out something like that.

It was a church, and although it was just a whispered remark, it was so desperate that it was heard.

And then, "Oh, I don't know what you're talking about, but it sounds pretty pathetic."

(alt: — — And then, "Oh, I don't really understand, but you're saying something really pathetic.") "Nn.....?"

I looked up to see a person wearing a coat and a school uniform at the entrance, which I had left open to ventilate the room.

The backlighting makes it difficult to see, but I know who it is by his voice.

The appearance of Tomomi Saikei, a childhood friend and one of the problems she is currently dealing with, made Akiharu stand up while squinting her eyes.

What are you doing here? You don't just happen to be passing through, do you?"

Don't you get it? Of course he came to see Akiharu.

Tomomi approaches me, ringing the floor she just cleaned, and says something meaningful.

With the preamble of a confession, I would normally have been thrilled,....., but Akiharu raised an eyebrow.

If she had blushed or looked away shyly, it would have been fine, but she was smiling happily, just like a black-hearted person.

"I came to see you."

It may be true that they are just trying to make fun of me, but they really mean it.

This is the right answer.

So, Akiharu asks with a look of deep dislike.

"....., did you hear there's a final exam?"

"Yes, you're right. That's great. How did you figure it out in one shot?"

Tomomi, who I see every day in the classroom but never contacted me, came all the way here at this time. She should have imagined it that way.

I don't like it. It's just the two of you and the person who confessed to you, and you've created such an attitude, it's really upsetting.

I'm tempted to say, "Who caused the wilderness level to become so desolate?"

And, "I can't do this anymore, I'm over my limit."

The fact that he would even offer me a glass of water when I asked him to do so made him even worse.

Well, there was nothing we could do about it, so Akiharu took a rag and a bucket of dirty water and said, "I'm working, so if you want to talk, you'll have to wait until I finish.

I don't care. But isn't that the end of it?"

"Ah,, that's right. I'll have to go and report it.

Then I'll just clean up while I'm at it. It won't be long."

Tomomi stepped aside as if to give way.

Akiharu nodded his head after thinking about it for a moment.

I should really be sneaking around and doing things when no one is watching, but I compromise and decide that it's okay to talk without stopping to clean up.

With a bucket in hand, I walked out of the church and went around to the right along the building.

There is a small flower bed and a water supply just ahead, and as I begin to throw away the dirty water and wash my tools, Tomomi, who has been following me, opens up and starts to talk.

I heard that they are talking about whether or not I can advance to the next exam, but how about you, Akiharu? Are you confident?

I'm not sure I'm confident. I don't know what I'm going to do, so I can only say that I honestly don't know.

(alt: "Even if I say confidence.) Just tell me you can afford to lie about it. If you don't advance, you'll be expelled. Do you understand that?

I know that. I have nothing to go on after being kicked out of here, and I'm going to work myself to death that day.

I hope that's okay, but you're really going to have to work hard, okay? It's just too much to ask that the person you confessed your feelings to be expelled from school and fade away.

It was an inappropriate way to give a pep talk, but he somehow felt that they were really concerned about him, so Akiharu silently continued to wash the rag.

Maybe I should use the phrase "I can't get mad at you" for this kind of situation.

After rinsing several times, squeeze a clean rag tightly and throw it into an empty bucket. Then you can store them in the tool shed and that's it.

"So you're just talking about the exam at? I'm done here.

When I asked just to be sure, I saw Tomomi's mouth relax into a smile.

The expression on his face made Akiharu suddenly regret what he had done.

It is the same kind of reaction as laughing at a fool who inadvertently utters the NGO word.

And you're falling for a trap that's so obvious? Oh, you fell for that?

The level of the "I'm not a fan of this" mentality is almost audible.

"Oh, you thought there would be more to the story?"

I thought I had it!" and "..... Oh my God, yes, I thought I had it! I mean, we've barely spoken since then, so of course I thought there would be.

When Akiharu glared at her, Tomomi looked more and more amused, her eyes arched, and she let out a giggle.

I think that's what people usually think. It's not possible to just confess and have no further action.

"....., right?"

The Unthinkable.

As someone who has had the experience of having a blonde driller somewhere do the "I'm a blonde" thing, it makes me feel extremely uncomfortable, but I have no choice but to nod my head in agreement.

If they pursue it too aggressively, it will only cause trouble.

While feeling depressed about the fact that she is still in control of the pace, Akiharu holds back a sigh and looks at Tomomi's face.

Then, I decided to ask the crucial question I had always wanted to ask, but never had been able to.

He asked me to go out with him on Valentine's Day. Is he serious?"

What, you doubt me?

I don't mean that I doubt it, but doesn't seem realistic at all. Tomomi is talking about me you know, like, she likes me."

I was so embarrassed to even say it out loud that I wanted to die, but I mustered up all the courage I had to ask.

Instantly my face gets hot and my back starts to itch.

Unable to endure the embarrassment, Akiharu walks to the back of the church where the tools are stored with a bucket in his hand.

Then a giggle came from behind me and said, "Autumn sun is pure regardless of its appearance. I don't mind that kind of thing.

Oh, I see. So, what's the deal? I don't think you would do something like that just for fun, but it's not like you.

When I asked her out of desperation, she seemed to be thinking a little behind my back and said, "Well, you know. It may not seem like me, but if you look at it from a different perspective, I think it was a very personal approach.

..... Riddle me? Is that what this is about?

No, it's not. I'm just saying that confessing in the first place isn't really like me, so if I'm going to do it, it would be better to act in such a way that it's out of character.

I could understand why, but, why do you have to live in such an extreme way?"

Akiharu glanced back with a mixture of dismay and admiration as he walked along.

Tomomi, who was walking with her hands folded behind her back, looked at me with happy eyes and said, "Normally I would have to think things through and make my mind up before making a move, but that's what happened when I tried to do things as I thought they should be done. Letting go of the brakes of reason is dangerous, after all.

Is this really something that can be said in such a light-hearted manner?

Perhaps it was the feeling of a normally quiet girl who never knows what she might do when she gets excited at an event.

While Akiharu was subtly trying to make sense of the situation, Tomomi suddenly dropped her gaze on the crocus planted in the flower bed, and her mischievous smile turned soft.

I was very nervous, but I don't regret it, so it was all right. However, what Akiharu thought about it is a different story, isn't it?

..... confession or not, maybe you should have picked the right time and place."

"I'm sorry I'm such a wimp."

(alt: "I'm sorry for being an inconsiderate woman.") Tomomi's words, without any sense of remorse, made Akiharu feel beyond dismay to a sense of innocence.

Maybe, "I don't regret it."

I think she is able to be so natural because she is not lying in the slightest about what she says.

Otherwise, even if it is true, it should be impossible to have a normal conversation with someone who confessed in front of everyone.

At least not in autumn.

I'm sure she wants to run away.

(alt: I'm sure you want to run away.) I had so many questions I wanted to ask, but I was too embarrassed to say them out loud.

Feeling like she is being shown the difference between herself and her childhood friend, Akiharu scratches her head roughly and puts the bucket away in the tool box.

I then spread the rag on a small towel rack nearby and fastened it with a clothespin to prevent it from flying away in the wind.

Now that the work is done, all I have to do is to go and report it.

The conversation ends here with "What did you come here to say, after all?"

If you don't ask that question, it will leave a lump in your throat.

The strange certainty that I haven't heard the whole story yet is probably because I am talking to Tomomi.

I think I feel this way because I know both my childhood and the way I use the mask of an honor student now.

Then, as if to confirm Akiharu's prediction, Tomomi smiled as if she was watching a child who had correctly answered a trick question without making a mistake and said, "I'll answer your confession, but you don't have to do it for a while. Take your time to think about it.

What's that again at"

She had never thought she would be asked to make a counter proposal, let alone a request, so Akiharu raised an eyebrow and asked, "It's kind of frustrating that you so easily answered my question after all the trouble I went through and finally decided to take action, isn't it?

..... What's the reason?

Well, half of it is just a joke. The other half is an important question, so I want you to think about it so that you don't have any regrets. So there's no need to be in a hurry.

Tomomi's way of speaking, taking the initiative, does not change much from her usual way of speaking.

Despite this, she seemed strangely adult-like, and Akiharu was quite upset.

We haven't spoken in a few days, but we should have seen each other every day. What is this growth?

I remember this feeling.

I felt the same thing during the conversation with Selnia, who came to my room on the day I was sick and missed school.

I feel like I've been left behind at, which is a little frustrating.

Not necessarily because of that, but Akiharu didn't nod at Tomomi's words, "I appreciate the time you give me to think, but I don't need it for that long.

Yeah?" Why?"

I mean, the more I think about it, the more I don't understand. That's why you're right.

(alt: "I don't know... the more I think about it, the more I don't understand it. That's why... I see...") After some thought, he remembers that the event is coming up at just the right time.

The event that brought Tomomi here in the first place was a very important event for the students in the Education Department, as it was the event that would determine their career path.

"- - Next Saturday, the entrance exam. I'll tell you about it after that.

"Hmmm soon, is that ok?"

Oh. We're almost done answering the questions, and after the exams are over, we'll have finals and graduation right away, right? If you keep dragging this out, you'll be a sophomore.

Yes, that's right. Well, if I get promoted, that is.

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) I really think this childhood friend is a genius at bringing people down.

How can they throw in a killer pass so easily?

"Damn, you always, always hmm?"

Akiharu's shoulders slumped in sudden anxiety, but he suddenly noticed a shadow in his field of vision and turned his attention to it.

Over Tomomi's shoulder, who looked doubtful at my reaction, I saw a blonde woman coming out of the shadows of the building, her hair shining in the western sun.

I knew who it was and where they were, but at the same time that Akiharu noticed them, they seemed to notice me, and for some reason, their expressions became very stern.

Is that Tomomi at with you there?

"Oh, Oh, Mrs. Selnia? What are you doing here?"

Tomomi is surprised to see Selnia coming at her with such force, and asks, "What's going on?"

Perhaps annoyed by this, Selnia's eyes, which were already very sharp, became two steps more intense, and she approached Tomomi with a force that almost made her feel like she was going to grab her.

No, not why. Don't tell me you're breaking your own contract and running away from the deal.

I don't have to do anything so immodest. I just came to tell you that I had something to tell you. If, then is fine, but it's"

He looks as if he is not fully convinced, but Akiharu doesn't touch that point.

I know this is the worst possible combination, but I am not sure what they were talking about, and I felt that I could get burned if I got involved too badly.

(alt: I know that this combination is the worst possible situation, but the details of what the two of them were talking about are still unclear, so I had a feeling that if I got involved poorly, I would get burned.) Tomomi turned around and smiled at Akiharu, who was trying to keep a safe distance from her, and said, "Well then, I'm going to go now. Be careful so that people don't think that you are slacking off on your work."

While Akiharu was thinking in his mind, "You are the one who talked to me while I was at work," Tomomi was quickly walking toward the dormitory with zero regrets.

And then, only Akiharu and Selnia, who does not even try to hide her scowl, are left.

Although I felt that I could not be left behind in such heavy air, I had something on my mind as Akiharu, so I mentioned it in a few words.

Tomomi's guy was just as he was with Selnia.

..... Hmm, isn't it getting a little tedious to wear the cat? I couldn't care less what she thinks.

"..... Oh?"

Akiharu made a small, surprised noise in response to the unexpected reaction.

As far as I know, Selnia should only know Tomomi, who is in a young lady's mode.

And yet, she is not discouraged, but rather, she seems to have had a chance to know Tomomi's true nature over the past few days, as seen in the way she now reveals her uncontrollable anger:

Well, Selnia was originally one of the students at Hakurei Ling who had a lot of exposure to the two-sided nature of the black-hearted person with the thick coating, so she may have figured it out on her own.

In terms of likelihood, I think it is more likely that Tomomi would have informed them knowingly because she is Tomomi.

Although she did not know what in the world he was thinking, Akiharu looked at Selnia's face intently and said, "It looks like you two are getting along pretty well, huh?"

Who is going to be friends with whom? I wish you wouldn't make such a horrifying statement!

The company denied it with all its might, but that should not be the case.

Selnia looks like she really doesn't like it, so I guess it's not a deception.

As Akiharu was once again realizing that the relationship he took for granted was changing day by day,....., the blonde lady with a pouty expression and folded her arms said, "That's not the point.

He was a very nice guy, and he was very kind to me.

What were you and Tomomi talking about? Depending on the details, yes, a wake will be held as early as tomorrow.

Don't just announce a murder at a moment's notice, it's scary. It's just small talk, and then a report, or rather, an office call."

..... I don't understand. If you're just trying to smoke me out, you're not going to get away with this, are you?"

Tomomi told me that I didn't have to answer her confession yet, but I told her I would answer her next Saturday. Tomomi told me not to respond to her confession yet, but I told her I would answer her next Saturday.

I wouldn't go out of my way to say this about other people, but Selnia is special.

He has a right to know, and even if he doesn't, there is one thing we should tell him.

So Akiharu turned to Selnia, whose eyes were rounded in surprise, and said, "I think I'll tell you what I have to tell you then, after the promotion examination for the education department is over, are you free?

Yeah, yeah it's fine, but

If so, leave it open. I don't know what time the exam will be over at, but since it will be held over lunch, it should be over by 3:00 p.m., right? Well, I'll let you know before dinner at the latest, so please stay at Hakuryo. If the timing doesn't work out, we can do it later.

It's not that you have to tell them that day no matter what, so if you can't, you can do it later.

I simply told Tomomi that I would do it that day, so I thought it would be better to do it the same way, and I thought it would be better if I could use the momentum from the exam to tell her.

Selnia bit her lower lip slightly and nodded her head in response to our offer.

..... I understand. After the exam, right?"

Yeah, I'll take care of it.

I heard that if you fail, you will be expelled from school. If you fail the exam, you can look forward to us pointing at your back as you walk out the door and laughing at you!

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) The line with a big smile on his face made Akiharu want to giggle as he realized something.

Now I understand.

In other words, this driller, along with Tomomi, heard about the test and came to give her a personalized pep talk.

It's not like this, I think, without saying it out loud.

If I tell him, he will never admit it and might even get mad, so I will stop myself from muttering about it in my mind.

..... It's a bit of a shame, though, because it would probably be funny if I told you.

Well, I'll be a fool if I cause problems before the exam, so I'll be patient here.

As he said this to himself, Akiharu raised one hand toward Selnia, who looked very proud of him, and said, "Well then, I'm going to go and report to Fukagan that my work is finished. Don't accidentally forget about Saturday, okay?"

After saying all she has to say, she quickly turns her back on Selnia and walks away.

If we delay any longer, there is a possibility that we will be seriously lectured by Shigeki.

Within a few minutes, a loud voice said, "You don't have a head like a Halloween pumpkin! It's harder for you to forget!"

Although he threw a lot of angry words at my back, he didn't seem to be chasing me.

I think they probably intend to avoid contact with each other until the set Saturday, as they have done recently.

Walking alone toward the special school building, Akiharu folds his right thumb and index finger with a small sense of accomplishment.

Unexpectedly, the two of them were able to resolve the issue between Tomomi and Selnia.

It was also the day of my biggest exam as a student.

That leaves only one more problem that we have not tackled.

While heading to the office of the board chairman, where Deepika is, Akiharu kept thinking about what to do with one of them. "Hey. Hey, how about a game?"

"..... the match?"

At our rather sudden words, Daichi, who was wearing a lintel over her samue, her nightgown, turned to us with a suspicious look.

When Daichi came out of the bathroom after getting dressed, I asked him out of the blue, which was a natural reaction.

At this time before dinner, Ochi comes back to her room to change out of her uniform before going to the cafeteria.

We had been living on opposite sides of the world, but with that experience, I knew that the only place to target was here or in the classroom.

So, while thinking that it was a bit aggressive, Akiharu decided to go straight for the jugular before the other party could get away with it.

After school today, I thought about how to deal with the lingering issue of my strained relationship with Daichi, and came up with a fairly simple solution.

Daichi may have his own thoughts on the matter, but for now, let's forget about it for a while and have a go at me on the next entrance exam, shall we?"

"..... For what?"

You've been in an awkward spot lately, haven't you? I still don't know what it is that's made you so angry, so I thought I'd just go ahead and settle the score."

"Do you really think is going to fix this?"

Daichi is right, it is not a fundamental solution.

Akiharu knew this too.

However, I feel that I missed the right moment to apologize because it took me so long to find the cause of the problem.

So, with a change of mind, I decided to use this technique.

Looking up straight at Daichi, who is wrinkling his brow slightly, Akiharu looks up at him as if he is still sitting on the bed, and blasts him with words he has prepared.

So how about we have a test, and the winner gets one point from the loser?"

I'm at

Daichi stares at our proposal with a look of surprise.

"Do you listen to? What the hell is that?"

I'm going to go to and say, "Uh, yeah, that's what I'm going to do. Of course, as much as I can. I'll veto anything too crazy, like no-rope bungy from the rooftops or running around the city naked.

"..... So you're saying anything is possible under normal circumstances?"

Oh. Well, we don't know what we're going to do in the exam yet, and it's not clear if we'll win or lose like a direct competition, but if the president is involved, he's going to rank the teams or something similar. So, I guess we'll see how it goes.

"..... to say... anything"

(alt: 「.....What to say.....Whatever.....」) Whether or not he is listening to me, Daichi mumbles something as if he is chewing something over and over again.

The reaction was more than I had expected, despite the conditions that are usually associated with competitive events.

Well, if you think about it, this may be the first time he has had this kind of exchange since he grew up in the countryside and did not have much social interaction with others.

Then I'm not convinced that it's a good idea.

(alt: If that's the case.....I can't accept that.) I can only swallow it down with that in mind.

Holding back the feeling that she was about to pull away, Akiharu once again announces her intentions.

If I win, can we put this behind us? To be honest, it's hard for me to keep things on edge like we are now. I know it's my own selfish opinion, but I want to be on good terms with Daichi next year if at all possible."

I think he is being really selfish in his comments.

Although the cause of the problem remains unknown, I still feel as if I should have apologized sincerely and wholeheartedly.

But even so, Akiharu thought that if he could not understand and apologize properly, it would be better this way.

At least, if it is me, I can still make sense of it.

I don't know if it's the same for Daichi.

(alt: I don't know if it's the same with Daichi.) I was secretly worried that it might be a bad bet,..... but the response I got from Daichi was, "..... Hino will do whatever I tell him,....."

They kept tripping over their heads, seemingly not listening at all.

..... What is it about this guy that makes him so captivating?

Perhaps the level of resentment, the bone marrow level, could even lead to the possibility of doing the unthinkable.

With a sense of terrible regret, Akiharu's cheeks tense up and she asks for confirmation.

"Let's see,, are you okay with those terms then?"

"..... is fine. Oh, and there's no way it'll be invalid afterwards, right?"

Oh, yeah. got it.

(alt: "Ah, yeah... I understand.") The roommates were heating up so quietly that it was not surprising to see pale flames floating in the background, and Akiharu felt that he was getting a little ahead of schedule. Still, he was relieved that he had managed to get through the night.

(alt: Seeing his roommate heat up so quietly that it wouldn't be strange if the pale flames were floating in the background, Akiharu felt a sense that it had come quite early... Even so, he was relieved that he had managed to get through the situation well. put down.) Now all that's left is to work hard on the exam.

Tomomi's reply to his confession, and the feelings he has to convey to Selnia, all happened after he successfully passed the exam and decided to move on to the next grade.

I finally have a clear idea of what I need to do now that I have one immediate goal, which is to pass the exam and advance to the next level.

It is better to keep things as simple as possible.

If it's too complicated, you'll be stuck just thinking about what to do.

Feeling like he was out of the girders, Akiharu tightened his lips and said, "Well, the final battle is on Saturday. Until then, don't get injured or sick, okay?

Of course. I'm not going to take it easy on you if we're playing.

Because that's what it's all about.

It seems a little too much motivation for an exchange of yells, but it's been a while since I've had a real conversation with Daichi, so it's all good.

Akiharu, who had not been excited in a long time, was looking forward to the day of the exam, which was supposed to be a difficult one, and she and Daichi kept looking at each other and laughing.

Although there were no special incidents or events until Saturday, and there was a bit of awkwardness among the first-year students, the days passed by without a hitch until finally the day of the exam.

Today is finally the long-awaited exam to advance to the next level in the Education Department! I hope you are all looking forward to it!

The President's voice, coming through the speakers, was full of energy and perfectly suited to the sunny weather.

It was, how should I put it, disgusting.

The fact that the microphone is being used for the purpose of speaking is probably in consideration of the upper division students in the audience, but the location of the athletic field is reminiscent of a track and field meet.

If parents were allowed to watch the game, my cousin Natsume, who was waiting for me when I e-mailed her, would have been in the audience, but fortunately or unfortunately, only students were allowed to watch the game.

I guess they consider this as one of the events around gathering people, but I wish they did not make fun of it too much since it is an important test for Akiharu and his friends.

I think it is even more so with my current physical condition.

Sitting in line on the inside of the 200-meter track, Akiharu, like all the other obedience students, was brushing dry mud off his uniform pants as he watched the president of the board of trustees, who had taken the trouble to set up a seat at the headquarters, and who was holding a microphone in his hand.

Kaede, who was looking through the opera glasses in her left hand at the spectators facing the stands, lowered her glass with satisfaction, as if she could see the reaction, and opened her mouth wide with a big smile. "Now then, everyone, we will begin the second round of the first year obedience test, which we have been waiting for you all for some time now. "Now then,

I would like to begin the second part of the first-year promotion examination for the education department at Hakuryo High School. Yes, applause!

(alt: Kaede, who was peeking through the opera glasses she was holding in her left hand at the spectator seats facing the stands, lowered her glasses in satisfaction as if she could see their reactions, and opened her mouth wide with a smile on her face... From now on, I would like to start the second category of the Hakuryo High School 1st Grade Examination, which everyone has been waiting for. Yes, applause! ♪) The students in the Upper School did not so much as cheer as applaud as their voices echoed throughout the entire stadium.

Akiharu, sensing a somewhat puzzled atmosphere, nodded his head in agreement.

It is strange that you don't feel any discomfort with what I just said.

However, the speaker did not seem to notice this and said, "Hey, your reaction is not very strong. Did you all eat breakfast properly?"

..... Mr. President, I know that many of you in the upper division are wondering why we are starting a "second category". First, please explain.

(alt: "... President, all the upper education students are just skeptical about the fact that the 'second event' is about to begin. First, explain that.♪) Hah, really? You noticed it very well, didn't you?

The president is impressed, but anyone who knows what's going on should be able to tell.

In fact, some of the more perceptive students in the audience had been looking at the audience with suspicion for some time.

Well, it is not surprising that some people would think something was wrong, since they were dressed as usual in their butler's and maid's uniforms, but they were already slightly dirty and their hair was in a bad shape.

The first exam for advancement was held at 6:00 in the morning. We rented a mountain about 30 minutes away by bus and did a little orienteering. Since we all cleared the first event, we were all ready for the second event.

The President says it casually, but what is it about "a little orienteering"?

Akiharu wanted to ask whether this was the case.

If we were to do this for recreation, we would receive fierce protests from the participants.

When we gathered early in the morning before the exam, everyone was full of enthusiasm and a sense of urgency.

The air was tense, everyone was quiet, and his normally cheerful manner was hardened. But right after the exam, the dead were forced to deactivate.

(alt: The air was tense, everyone was quiet, and even the normally cheerful guys were hardened... but immediately after the exam, they were in a state of forced weakness, covered in corpses.) The students were so weak that they couldn't even stand up quickly, even though their radio-controlled cars were running on low batteries.

Well, but that's the way it's supposed to be.

We had to run around in the cold mountains, there was still snow in some places, and we had to drink water from a spring in a place that had nothing to do with the checkpoint. To be honest, I think it was a minor miracle that we all made it through without dropping out.

(alt: Running around the cold mountain, depending on the place, there was still snow left, and on top of that, the only drinking water we had to drink was spring water in a place that had

nothing to do with the checkpoints... Honestly, we all cleared without dropping out. I think it was a minor miracle.) The Shikikagami was especially close.

One person's uniform was heavily soiled and torn in places because he had literally tumbled into the finish line, probably with more serious injuries than a normal person would have sustained.

It is too much of a mystery why I was only lightly bruised.

Therefore, more than half of the students in the training course were already in a very close situation.

Akiharu is also very worn out and has little time to spare.

I think the reason I am still able to move if I work hard is because of the hard training I have received since transferring to Hakuryo.

I am sure the others are the same way, but I have developed the strength and guts to run until I am on the verge of collapse.

Therefore, it is likely to become a miserable mud fight from this point onward.

The only exception is the land.

Daichi, who made it through the first event in an amazingly short time of just under an hour, looks cool and clean.

Since I have proposed a match, I have to win, but how can I win against a guy with such absurd specs?

It will be tough unless you are lucky enough to buy a scratch ticket and win the first prize.

I wonder if I did something really stupid." As Akiharu's gloomy mood was growing, Kaede's cheerful voice came over the speaker.

(alt: I wonder if I've done something I didn't know about myself... As Akiharu was growing in a gloomy mood, Kaede's bright voice flew from the speaker.) So, once again, I'm going to do the second kind, all right? From now on, I'm going to ask all of you in the upper secondary school to help me out, so please do me a favor.

Only those who complete a questionnaire upon entering the stadium will be eligible. We are sorry, but please hang up the sash you received in exchange for your questionnaire during the test.

When Akiharu looked back at the spectator seats after hearing Fukaba's supplementary explanation, he saw quite a few students wearing red tasuki.

Of the upper secondary and high school students, 80% came to see the event, and more than half of them cooperated to participate in the event.

(alt: Eighty percent of the middle school and high school students come to watch, and more than half of them participate and cooperate.) I can't read the situation without knowing whether it is advantageous or disadvantageous for us to have many cooperative targets, or what we are going to do.

Akiharu looked at Kaede at the main table with a frown, wondering what in the world she was going to do next after her physical strength had been sapped so early in the morning.

The director, who had been sound asleep on the bus during the first event, smiled with a smile so full of energy it almost made me angry and said, "The second event of the promotion exam is called the 'What do you want competition!' Everyone, please pay attention to the person to your right, as you look at the teacher.

When Akiharu looked in that direction, he saw maids setting up a long table on top of the truck.

They are professionals who usually work behind the scenes, and Akiharu recognizes them.

They set up a few long tables for use in conference rooms, and on top of them they laid out something that looked like envelopes. I felt like I had seen a similar scene at the gymnastics festival.

(alt: They set up several long tables used in conference rooms, etc., and lined up things like envelopes on top of them...a somewhat similar scene, I think I saw it at the time of the sports festival. It happened.) While that time it was a more expensive antique desk, this time it is a table with foldable legs.

Another difference is that I can't see it well enough to be certain, but it seems like a lot of envelopes are being left behind.

To confirm Akiharu's prediction, "Let me explain the rules. All of you must run clockwise from the starting point and take one of the envelopes placed on the desk. Inside the envelope is a piece of paper with the "desired item" that you were asked to submit earlier, so go to the person who wrote it and get his/her signature as confirmation.

The cold voice of "Shaqi" echoed from the speakers, but it was not the end of the story.

The paper inside has "what you want" written on it, but without the name of the person who wrote it. Please try to guess who wrote it based on the communication you have developed so far.

"..... is a crazy"

(alt: ".....What's unreasonable.....") Akiharu unintentionally muttered, but the other students should have felt the same way.

I looked again at the bleachers to confirm that there were at least a hundred students who would be willing to help.

There may be as many as one hundred and fifty people.

Unsigned "Wish list

It's a little daunting to look at and pick the correct answer out of them.

It may be a lot easier than looking for a ring in the desert, but it seems to be about as difficult as clearing a nervous breakdown in ten failed attempts.

When Akiharu's cheeks were heaving up at the severity of the test, he said, "This is the most important part, but if you are not who you say you are, you will be penalized a lap around the track, you know? Also, you may choose a different envelope if you think it is impossible, but you will have to make a lap around the track.

..... A brainy voice further fueled the sense of hopelessness.

That incompetent clerk is enjoying because she won't do it herself! Unintentionally, Akiharu glares at her with a stern look, but Kaede, who doesn't seem to notice this, takes out a sheaf of paper and opens her mouth while slapping it open.

By the way, we will be checking at the finish line to see if the person who signed in wants the item, so no cheating, okay? In that case, you will not be disqualified, but you will have to try again after ten laps around the track.

....., you've really thought this through.

(alt: "... I think you're thinking about that.") The rules were designed to make the test fair by stating in advance that any attempt to cheat in good faith would result in a negative outcome.

But I deliberately said, "That's correct.

I didn't mention the case of the student who was signed out, but I think it's either a matter of trusting the morals of the upperclassmen, or it's the student's own fault for doing such a thing.

.....

(alt: I haven't mentioned the case where I ended up with a signature, but...Is this because I believe in the morals of the upper education course students, or is it the students' self-inflicted things that are done like that? I wonder which one.) As I felt at the time of the first event, I think that the president came up with an appropriate idea, and then Fukagan finalized the details as a test.

The difficulty level is tough because of, but it's too late to complain about that.

There was no doubt that it was difficult to clear.

I'm tired of, and you're in trouble.

The person who spoke to me was Sanke, who was sitting next to me and looked as tired as he said he was.

Thinking that I probably have a similar face, Akiharu whispered, "It's tough but it's not like there's a rule that says you're disqualified if you miss a single shot, so if I can just manage to get a few in..."

As I was about to say, "It's going to be all right," he interrupted me and said, "Oh, and also, this second category will end when there are ten successful applicants, you know. If you're too lazy, you'll be out, won't you?"

The cheerful voice, which did not read the atmosphere, echoed through the room, and Akiharu was stunned, choking on his own words.

..... It is not time-limited, but a win-lose system with a maximum number of players.

This means that there may not be time for a "one-horse race" and that more than half of the participants will drop out of the competition.

Sanke, who had been looking at each other, seem to have understood, and their expressions become blatantly drawn.

Sanke were probably not the only ones who were nervous about the competition, but the other students in the obedience course must have felt the tension suddenly well up.

The autumn sun was no exception, and even though it was the end of February, I was breaking out in a cold sweat, and my heart rate suddenly sped up.

What you want" written on it

However, it seems that people of different grades and classes are sitting wherever they want to sit, and it is not immediately clear who is where.

Tomomi and Selnia, as well as Eiche and Hedier, were easy to spot because of their conspicuousness, but the rest were impossible to spot at a glance.

"You can't drop the entrance exam because it's too difficult!"

Unintentionally, Akiharu complains, but that doesn't make him any less impatient.

And before I had time to compose myself, I said, "Well, I'm going to start the second part of the obedience test. All trainees should come to the starting line.

A light voice urges her to start, and Akiharu, like the other students, gets up and moves.

We tried desperately to come up with a countermeasure, but it was not easy to come up with the right idea.

I chose the outside of the track and took up a position, racking my brains for a better, if not a winning strategy.

"Oh, you're early!"

I reflexively shouted a protest, but it was drowned out by the sound of the gunpowder that signaled the start of the attack.

Before he knew it, he was holding a pistol, and he could see smoke coming out of the muzzle of the gun.

The others seemed surprised for a moment, but soon regained their composure and started running at once.

In order not to fall behind, Akiharu hurriedly started to run, but instead of making a decisive dash for the start, he seemed to be lagging behind.

The fatigue from the first event also made my speed less than I would have liked, and my impatience grew even greater, but I knew that I had to "calm down."

I repeated it over and over in my head.

This is not just a clown race.

It is different from an ordinary scavenger hunt.

There is a strong element of luck in whether or not the envelope contains something written by someone you know, but that should not be the whole story.

It is important to be able to communicate with upper secondary students on a regular basis.

..... However, although I think it is unworthy of me, Akiharu does not get to know too many students.

Although it is no longer common for people to run away or be stunned immediately upon meeting, they are still often blatantly avoided or observed from afar.

I guess appearance is not the only reason, so this is my own fault.

I can only reflect on that.

But I will reflect on it later.

Now we have to open up and do something about it.! "..... and!"

(alt: Now I have no choice but to be defiant and do something about it...! ".....shsh.....!")

After a few minutes, he arrived at the long table a little later than the other students.

The fastest one is already running with the opened envelope in his hand, and several others are looking at the bleachers.

Akiharu, trying his best to calm his impatience, grabs the envelope he sees while praying that he will win, rips it open, and removes the paper from inside.

It reads, "..... 'A villa overlooking the sea in Monaco'"

This is not something that a high school or junior high school girl would want on her own.

As usual, Hakuryo students do not understand common sense.

Anyway, holding a piece of paper with the resort in his hand, which even the winner of the first prize of a lottery, including the after-prize, would not want, Akiharu thought for just a few seconds and started running.

The destination is not the audience, but rather, "Well, it seems that everyone is having a hard time. Akiharu-san, you suddenly pass?"

As Kaede had said, Akiharu did not look for the person who had written the envelope, but ran to complete a lap of the track to open the next envelope.

I don't have a wide circle of friends, but I do have a deep understanding of some of the students.

So, the strategy is to keep looking without looking for the correct answer until you hit on the right one.

Instead of spending time looking for the wrong envelope, concentrate on opening as many envelopes as possible.

Frankly, I think this is a very bad bet.

But I can't find any other way to pass this test within ten.

I have a lot of anxiety, but I'm not going to ignore that anymore.

Do your best to ignore them.

Since Smart cannot give you the best answer, you have no choice but to work hard and do nothing more than you have to do.

Now it's just a matter of luck and physical strength. The moment he sees the paper inside the envelope, he starts running again.

"Your own private limousine."

There is no way we can know who we are talking to.

As I was running, I heard cheers and applause coming from somewhere.

I don't dare to react, but I can somehow understand why it happened.

The President's voice echoed through the speakers on the field, confirming this expectation.

It seems that some of the students have already passed the exam. Isn't this pretty amazing, Shinkan?

I think it's true. Even the fastest student probably expected to take more than five minutes, so I would say that's an excellent time.

I see... And while I'm at it, the second successful candidate has just passed the exam! I hope everyone else will do their best as well!

(alt: ``I see. "Everyone else, please do your best not to lose.") At the sound of the two voices at the headquarters, Akiharu clicked his tongue and raised his speed.

We were not expecting to be able to find anything of interest right away, so we decided to pace ourselves for the long haul, but if we waited too long, the slots would be filled before we ran out of energy.

The only way to get through it is to be prepared to take on a little more strain.

"Damn, it's nice to see all the good people here, isn't it?!"

While feeling uncomfortably complicated by the high level of their mutual enjoyment, Akiharu grabs the envelope on the table while running, slides over and opens it while braking with the sole of his shoe, but immediately starts to run again.

And then it's off again, and it's just the two of us.

There is no way to know what is going on.

As they repeatedly failed, reports of other students who had tried again and again without success were circulating, and they became more and more impatient.

I knew that there were more than a hundred envelopes left, but it was not that easy.

Castles around Austria.

The scale is huge, but I don't know whose wish it is.

(alt: — — The scale is huge, but I don't know whose wish it is.) No.

The picture drawn by Mr. Sakurazawa.

I think they will give it to me if I ask, but the problem is who wrote it, so I can't do it.

"Make the bust a little bigger and the waist a little thinner."

I don't know if that's ideal.

(alt: — — Even if such an ideal is written.) No.

The idea of a change of direction would flicker in and out of the corner of your mind.

However, changing the way we do things now does not guarantee success.

Pushing aside her body's complaints of wanting to rest due to exhaustion and anxiety, Akiharu stopped moving and opened the envelope, not knowing how many times she had already received it, while gasping for breath.

After reading the text on the paper several times to make sure it is correct, I dash to the bleachers with all my might.

This is probably true.

I can't imagine that anyone would want what is described, and I have an idea who it might be.

If that is the case, we have no choice but to try.

Thinking that this may be his only chance, Akiharu runs straight to the place where the person he wants to see is located.

I kept an eye on the bleachers while I was on the track, so I knew who was where, as long as I knew them.

The goal is to be seated at the highest seat on the right side of the field, at the top of the stairs connected to the field, as seen from the headquarters.

The classmate with voluptuous blonde hair, who had already noticed that Akiharu was coming toward her, rolled her eyes and stared at her as she ran up the stairs, taking two steps.

While the students in the nearby seats ran away as if scattering spiders, Akiharu ran up to Selnia, who was still out of breath and standing out, and said, "Here, here! You wrote this, didn't you?"

Ask out loud, "What do you want?"

The woman held out a piece of paper with the following words on it: "I am a member of the community.

But not Selnia herself, but the person sitting next to her.

"ア..... that?"

Feng Shuilan's eyes fluttered over her glasses, as if she had never thought she would be rejected, and she compared this paper with the one she had offered.

The gesture is quite adorable, but the situation is so urgent that Akiharu wants to hurry. It was Hou who wrote 'snake and spear' on the piece of paper and offered it to her, wasn't it?

I'm sorry, this is. This is mine.

(alt: "Ah, yes. My death.") "Then sign me up! Sorry, but hurry!"

He hands a piece of paper and a fountain pen from his breast pocket to Feng.

Although she looked puzzled by the hurried and urgent atmosphere, she seemed to understand what was happening and immediately signed her name with a serious look in her eyes.

Finished! Here.

"Yes, thank God! I'll thank you again.

Almost snatching the offered paper and fountain pen, Akiharu turns on his heel and dashes along the route he has just taken.

"Hey, it's autumn sun! How can you ignore me?

I'm not in the mood for this, so we'll see you later, okay?

With Selnia's voice behind him, Akiharu runs down the stairs and back to the field.

I can't deal with that driller right now because every minute counts.

Clutching a piece of paper with Hou's signature on it, he runs around the track to the finish line, the place where he started the race.

Then, a checker-like maid waiting at the finish line asked me, "What do you want?

The first time he did this, he handed over a piece of paper with the following words on it: "I am a member of the community.

In addition to Akiharu, Oka was waiting to be checked and was breathing heavily with his hands on his knees.

I thought about saying something to him, but the tense air prevented me from doing so, and I could only manage my breath in silence.

It was painful to just sit and wait in this situation, and when Akiharu couldn't stand it any longer and shifted his gaze to see how many guys had already cleared, he saw the maid who was working on the confirmation pull the small microphone attached to her collar with her hand and mumble something.

Immediately afterwards, the following message was sent: "Well, since there are now only ten cleared, this is the end of the second category. Thank you all for your hard work.

..... The voice of the President coming over the speakers made Akiharu feel as if his heart was being crushed in front of his eyes.

Does the current broadcast mean that Oka's clearance has increased to ten people?

Or: "Well, the 10th person to clear the entry is Oh, it's Akiharu-san, isn't it? It looked like you were just running on the track, but you really did it.

"..... Safe"

(alt: "..... Safe.....!") Akiharu unintentionally strikes a gut-punch and reveals his joy.

It was really close to the end, but we managed to get through.

After the thought that it might not work out, I'm extraordinarily happy.

If I am not careful, I might cry.

As Akiharu was biting back his numbing joy, he was lightly tapped on the shoulder from behind.

I turned around to see Sanke with tired smiles on their faces and said, "Good work. I finally cleared the subject too, but it seems I was a little too late.

Uh,, my bad."

No, I was just inexperienced. I failed the exam, but I will do my best to become more physically fit when I enter the second year.

Sanke did not say a single word of complaint even though it was an important examination for advancement, and Akiharu felt pure respect for them rather than apology.

Even he must have his own anxieties, but he should not be able to make positive comments out of concern for us, not even as a slightly good person.

He was a serious guy who could get the job done and had a high participation rate in the NSE examinations.

I'd like to think that Sanke are probably above the advancement line (.....).

At least, there is nothing I can do for Akiharu, so it would be selfish of me to say that I should take his place, but I would like to say, "Don't work too hard next time for me. What about the others?"

That's what amazes me, too.

(alt: "That's... I'm surprised too...") When Sanke smiles bitterly, his words somewhat muddled, Akiharu frowns.

One wonders what this reaction is, but before one can question it, a new voice speaks up.

"It was too much, wasn't it? So, Mikeco was not so lucky, was he?"

The person who approached from the headquarters side was Todoroki. His tone, which is usually as light as his tension, was a little lower than usual today.

I guess that means he is taking it seriously.

What was more problematic, however, was the fact that Todoroki came walking toward us with a look of ease on his face.

As far as I could see, there were students at the main table who had completed the challenge, so that meant that this idiot had completed the challenge faster than they had.

Yes, unfortunately. Shingo-kun, how did you manage to clear it?"

Well, I guess I can afford it. We've been paying attention on a daily basis, and it's paid off."

But I glanced at and saw you passed first place, right? He's faster than Daichi, that's impressive.

What?" You mean you cleared it before Daichi did?"

Hearing the shocking comment, Akiharu joined the conversation, but Todoroki did not seem particularly proud of himself, saying, "Oh.

I said, "It's no big deal. I just took a lap while Daichi took one by mistake and cleared it with no mistakes.

"You mean you cleared it in one shot? What, you were able to pull it off with someone that close to you?"

I wasn't close to him, but I remembered him as a senior student with a very violent chest. I remember him because he was a senior student. If you keep your ears open and do your best to gather information, it shouldn't be too difficult.

"....."

This idiot is saying outrageous things.

They are right to be called stalkers and perverts, but they do it with impunity.

It is not surprising that Hakuryo has fewer students than most schools in Tokyo, but to not only recognize upperclassmen with whom you have little or no contact, but to know the content of their conversations, is not something that a simple pervert can do.

I knew it, but he was a total pervert.

In many ways, it is a marvelous existence.

Although they cleared the second event immediately, they should have been tired from running around as much as they were in the first event, but Todoroki, who ran his hands over his neatly groomed all-back, smiled with an air of reserve and said, "Well, let's be a little more serious this time, shall we? There's no way I'm dropping out of this utopia.

You're just showing off your desires and desires, aren't you?"

"Oooh, that's why guys get all worked up, y'know!"

Akiharu was impressed by Todoroki's attitude of being honest with himself.

I wonder how far a human being can go when he or she has reached the end of his or her rope.

It's not a place I want to aspire to at all, but I think it's great.

And, to make matters worse, in addition to Todoroki in this mode, there were nine powerful enemies, including Daichi.

I realize now how difficult it is to be the leader over everyone else, and my mouth starts to curl up.

I know it's not the time for this, but it's a burning situation.

The competitive spirit rises, and strength is put into limbs that had been weighed down by exhaustion.

At the very least, it is much better than shrinking back in fear.

And while Akiharu was smiling belligerently, an optimistic voice came over the speaker, dampening his enthusiasm.

The second event has just finished, but if it goes on too long, some of you may catch a cold, so let's get on with the next one, shall we? All of you who have passed the examinations, please assemble at the starting point in front of the headquarters as before.

"Oh, it looks like the next one's starting. Good luck to both of you."

Oh! Mikeco, who collapsed halfway through his career, is going to stand out too!

Okay, I'm off.

Cheered on by Sanke, Akiharu and Todoroki headed for the starting point side by side.

While doing so, let's take a look at the remaining faces. I knew that Daichi and Oka were still there, but surprisingly, Shikikagami was also there.

(alt: While doing so, when I looked at the remaining faces... I knew that Daichi and Oka remained, but surprisingly, Shikikagami was also there.) Although he often screws up and makes mistakes, he is physically strong and the best communicator, so in that sense he is probably in the right place.

The rest of the group also remained basically good performers, so we could not be too careful.

Well, we don't have the luxury of doing that in the beginning.

"Okay, so, what's next?"

While lightly rotating his wrist at the starting point to check his tone, Akiharu muttered to himself.

The long table on the truck has been cleared away, and there is no sign of anything new.

Then, it is hard to believe that the president would do a normal development of for an examination in athletics.

I look at the main table with a raised eyebrow, wondering what kind of test they are preparing for.

Maple, who was drinking an orange juice, put her right hand on the microphone and opened her mouth.

The first thing I'd like to do is to have the students choose a partner for this event. In the order in which you complete the second event, you will choose one partner from among all the students who are present in this arena.

..... Supplemental information: Upper division students have the right of veto. Once you refuse to be a partner, you also forfeit your right to be a partner of another student, so please think carefully before responding.

(alt: 『.....As a side note, upper education students have the right of veto. However, once you refuse to partner with someone else, you will also lose the right to partner with other students, so please think carefully before answering.』) Mikan, who also serves as secretary, carefully follows up on the president's explanation.

Hearing this, Akiharu turned his attention to the spectator seating.

As I had just cleared the first event, I would naturally be the last one to choose.

First, there was Todoroki, and then the order was 大地..... If we were not good enough, there was a possibility that none of the upper secondary school students we normally knew well would be left.

Well, maybe, but I don't think there will be any marauders who will call out to Aiche, and I don't think there will be anyone who will go to a shy celebrity to ask him for a favor on this occasion. but I'm afraid of what he will do after he has made his choice.

(alt: Well, it's likely that no one will approach Aishe, and there won't be any shy celebrities going to this scene to ask for help, so I think it will work out somehow... but after you've made your choice. I'm afraid I don't know what to do at) If it involves running or physical activity, Aishe Momina is not suited for it, and even if she were to become a partner, it could end up being fatal.

On the other hand, if it is a mind-based exam, it might be hard to choose a junior Pina.

While she was thinking about what to do, the first player, Todoroki, finished his partner selection and came back to Seeing his partner, Akiharu's mouth dropped open and she let out a mumble.

"..... that erotic fool has chosen Daikichi as his partner." What?

First of all, "KANCHIRO".

It is surprising that Kazamatsuri's Daikichi, who calls himself "Daikichi," is here, but it is even more astonishing that Todoroki did not choose a woman for this kind of occasion, as if he were staring an alien in the face.

In addition to his familiar all-white attire of open-necked shirt, bell bottoms, and enamel shoes, Daikichi, wearing an unbuttoned white fur coat, which may be for protection from the cold or to stand out, stands beside Todoroki, posing as ever in vain.

They are the two most stupid boys who may be a disgrace to Hakuryo, but they have high ability in common.

I think that's why Todoroki chose him without showing any ulterior motives.

Akihari, who was watching the two with her cheeks hung back, immediately caught the attention of someone else.

It's Daichi, which has returned after choosing a partner in the second place, and next to her is Tomomi.

..... Since the two have worked together before in an obedience test, this case is not impossible.

But to have Daichi, who is so talented and unruly, team up with a black-hearted honor student who is an all-rounder and can do anything is nothing short of a nightmare, isn't it?

We knew they were all serious, but it's hard.

(alt: "I knew everyone was serious, but... it's painful...") While the other students in the obedience course chose their partners one after another, Akiharu, who was stuck until the end, thought hard about whom to choose in order to win.

The sarcasm came from Selnia, whose default attitude is like a needle in a haystack, and Akiharu knew it too.

I am tempted to say, "What the heck is going on?"

You know what's going on, don't you? Isn't that why you accepted me as a partner instead of turning me down?"

I don't know how many times I thought about turning it down. If Tomomi wasn't participating at all

(alt: "I don't know how many times I've thought of saying no. Really...if Tomomi-san hadn't participated...") Apparently, "Will you be my partner?"

When we asked him to do so, he agreed with reluctance, apparently because his rivals were competing.

Although we were thankful for the clear autumn sky, we were not too happy about it.

I chose Selnia as my partner based on her overall strength, but Tomomi, who is on the other side of, is giving me the stink-eye.

Perhaps it seems to others that I am merely gazing at it, but I know that there is a swallowing light in the depths of my eyes.

..... No, because Daichi chose his partner first and we didn't have a choice. Or was it wrong of me to choose Mr. Drill as my partner? Like everyone else, Akiharu had no personal feelings, and only chose the partner he thought would be better as a test partner.

..... But when I saw not only Tomomi but also Daichi glaring at me for some reason, I wondered, "Did I do something wrong?"

I am starting to feel like I'm in the middle of a "I'm not sure I want to do this."

(alt: I feel like that.) Moreover, my partner was also in a bad mood.

It will be very difficult to win in this situation.

The important thing is the content of the exam, but the president, who is supposed to be explaining it to us, has been talking quietly and has not yet announced it.

Thanks to this, he had to continue to receive uncomfortable stares from all over the place, and Akiharu said, "Please give me a break."

I muttered to myself, "..... Hey, didn't they tell you what kind of test we're going to do?"

I don't know, Whatever it is, there's nothing I can't do.

(alt: "... Hmph, I don't know. No matter what, there's nothing I can't do.") "..... Well, I guess that's true for the most part, but you know... .."

(alt: "... Well, I guess that's generally the case...") That's why I asked him to be my partner, but you can never be too careful because this driller can get hotheaded and make a mistake.

Especially with Tomomi, we sometimes push ourselves to the limit and lose control, for better or for worse.

While I was whispering and thinking about how we would be in trouble if we didn't steer the ship in the right direction, the HQ meeting seemed to be over.

The first thing to do is to make sure that the students who have become partners in the program are gathered in front of the main seats. Please gather in front of the headquarters. Oh, you don't have to wait in line. It's okay if you don't line up. Just feel like it's appropriate.

He looked at Selnia with a frown, as if he had just heard a careless word that had made him lose his temper.

Well, I thought it was unlikely that I would be running around with upperclassmen, but I haven't said exactly what I will be doing.

I'm a little worried that I won't be able to have a meeting with them beforehand.

In contrast to Akiharu, Selnia, who showed no sign of concern at all, glanced at me and quickly moved forward.

..... The way she's being shunned makes you wonder if she really likes that drill.

The students of the upper secondary education course were gradually gathering in front of the main seat, and only the students of the secondary education course were left at the starting point again.

Tomomi, who was in front of the other students before anyone else, gave me a meaningful look, and it seemed that the other students had noticed it too.

Akiharu's ears were filled with impatience as he wondered if they would just get on with it, no matter what it was.

Now we will move on to the explanation of the third category of the Progressive Examination. Chancellor, please.

Let's see.... For the third event, I'm going to ask all of you who are in the obedience course to get the clothes of the student who became your partner in the upper secondary course. Oh, and by clothing, I mean something to wear, so you can choose a kimono if you like.

..... Specifically, you will be asked to leave the stadium and go to the gymnasium. There you will find approximately 6,000 pieces of clothing, including different sizes, to choose from and bring them to the gymnasium.

(alt: 『.....Specifically, I will ask you to leave the stadium and go to the gymnasium. There are about 6,000 pieces of clothing, including different sizes, so please choose the one that suits your partner and bring it here.』) The important thing is to understand your partner's sense of style and size. If you don't want to wear something, you can reject it, and if it's not the right size, you must declare it to us, okay? We will score you on the basis of what you actually wear and how you look.

Hearing what they were talking about in the examination, Akiharu felt a little relieved.

Good, I've seen Selnia in her casual clothes.

I know what kind of clothes he likes and he should be a little shorter than me, so I should be able to figure out what to wear based on that.

Then, just as I was beginning to form a coherent thought about how I could quickly clear the problem, I realized that I had a lot of work to do.

Kaede, who had not yet finished her explanation and quenched her thirst with a sip of juice, said, "Oh, the time limit is 20 minutes, so you'll be disqualified if you don't hurry. This includes the time for you to change your clothes, so you will give your clothes to your partner in front of the locker room and finish the game when you have finished changing.

The "size check" and general dress sense will be done after the goal. Arrival order will be awarded points, but we assume that even the slightest delay will make it difficult for you to finish within the time limit, so we encourage you to do your best and not worry about the others.

"..... oh -"

(alt: 「……………Uo—……」) After listening to the explanation, I was able to understand that I had "enough."

The shortness of the time that they had to spend together made Akiharu make an unintentionally strange noise.

It probably takes nearly enough time to get from here to the gymnasium and back, even if you run as fast as you can.

And with a change of clothes on top of that, there is hardly any time to pick out clothes.

Probably, though, you don't have time to look through all the clothes.

It will be all about making decisions on the spot, but I don't know how well I can do it.

(alt: Judgment on site seems to be everything, but I don't know how well I can do it.)

Worst-case scenario, you might have to grab some similarly sized clothing that was close at hand and bring it back.

I was tempted to grumble at the thought that they had made it so difficult again, but then I thought, "Okay, let's get started!"

The reality is that they don't have the luxury of time to do so, and they give me the signal to start almost without warning.

"You're too sudden, ……!"

Despite the venom in her voice, Akiharu started running, reacting faster than anyone else to catch up with Daichi and Todoroki, who followed right behind him.

The only way to spend as much time as possible on clothing is to cut back on travel time.

With every minute counted, we couldn't just sit back and watch the sudden turn of events.

I vowed that if I was successful in moving on to the next grade, I would make sure that all of us would take him to task together.

Using only his energy to exert his exhausted body, Akiharu ran through the campus with all his might, determined not to be defeated.

………… is a very eccentric arrangement.

Left on the playing field, Selnia moved to the locker room in the inner facility and muttered to herself with a sigh, "I'm not sure I can do this."

(alt: Selnia, who was left behind in the stadium, sighed and muttered while moving to the changing room of the internal facility.) On the track, the students who unfortunately could not advance to the third event began the 200-meter race, perhaps to pass the time and to keep their grades up, and the students watching seemed to be enjoying themselves as well, and one could hear a few cheers.

With the sound of lively voices in the background, Selnia walks at the end of the line with her partner, a senior high school student.

The student who should have been in front of me was standing still, as if waiting for me.

Since they went to the trouble of looking at our faces, there should be no mistake.

Serunia's brow furrowed as she realized that this was someone she knew well, and that he was waiting for her at this moment in time.

"Is there something you want from me, Tomomi? I'm in the middle of an examination, so I'd like to ask you to come back later."

It's going to take a few more minutes, no matter how fast you go, right? There should be enough time for a little chit-chat.

At this point, Selnia is no longer able to refuse the offer.

If you stubbornly refuse or ignore them, it is as if you cannot afford them.

If someone finds out, they may say I'm thinking too much, but at least I care.

Since the other party is Tomomi Saikei, who is no one else, there is no way to avoid being strongly conscious of her.

Biting her lip, Selnia slows down slightly.

Tomomi walked side by side with him, as if she understood that this was all that was necessary for a conversation to take place.

In addition to the anger I felt toward Akiharu earlier, the fact that my arch-enemy is talking to me with a nonchalant expression on his face is adding to my frustration.

So Selnia glanced at Tomomi's profile as if to vent out her pent up emotions, "But still, how dare you take on the role of Daichi's partner? Isn't it normal for a confessor to manipulate a confessor into refusing?"

"Oh, is that how it's done? I just thought I'd take it on so I wouldn't lose the opportunity.

"..... Opportunity?"

Yes. Since the director said "third category," I thought there would be more exams after that. Rather than turn it down, wouldn't it be better to leave open the possibility of becoming a partner in the next discipline?"

The argument sounded so perfect that Selnia was unable to pursue it any further.

If this woman came up with the idea immediately after being offered a partner role, then she's a far cry from being fast or thoughtful or smart in that sort of way.

In this tone, she has been recognized as an impeccable honor student who has always been noticed by everyone, choosing the most appropriate words and gestures for the occasion since she entered middle school.

Selnia herself, of course, felt a certain meanness, but she didn't think it was an act.

However, judging from her tone of voice, she basically maintains the same attitude as before in the presence of a third party who does not know her true nature.

This is a little disconcerting for Selnia now, but I am sure it is essentially the same as before.

As before, he remains a nemesis who is not easy to deal with.

So I told myself that there was no need to be puzzled or frightened at all, and as usual, I threw out some strong words.

That's quite a line, isn't it? I don't know if Akiharu will be able to clear this event or not. Besides, you might get suspicious from your partner.

We have already copied Daichi-kun. I will be fair in my evaluation of anyone on the test. I like to think outside the box and devise strategies, but I'm a rule follower.

....."

Selnia knows this all too well.

It is frustrating to be reminded of my inferiority when I lose because my opponent has a spirit of fair play, even though he does not play fair and square.

It has been almost four years since we first met, and I have always been aware of this opponent, and I have always wanted to beat him.

Tomomi Saikei made a small smile next to her and asked, "Why did you decide to team up with Akiharu-kun rather than me? You were so angry with her.

..... Hm. That's because it's too late for that. You can't even count the number of times those stupid people have touched people's nerves.

(alt: "... Huh. That's because it's too late. I can't count the number of times that stupid commoner has rubbed people's nerves.") "....., that's not an answer, is it?"

So, since I understand that he is such a man, and I still can't bring myself to give up on him, I don't think I'll be worrying about it for much longer.

Selnia's eyes glazed over and she stared at the face of Akiharu, who was not here at all.

I don't know if it was a mistake or a curse, but I fell in love with someone who had so many flaws and was incompatible with me.

(alt: null) So I'll accept this much.

I am angry and I am furious and I can't stop myself from being angry, but I am prepared to swallow it all in one piece.

I am angry.

However, I also accept that it can't be helped.

If the situation goes too far, we will also impose sanctions without mercy.

That is the answer that Selnia has arrived at over the past few weeks, and it will not be easily swayed.

For the most part, it's the same as it always has been.

If it does change, it will depend on the action from Akiharu, which means that we can only wait, stifling our anxiety and anticipation.

She should be the same, so Selnia lowered her voice so that the other students could not hear her, and spoke to Tomomi, who was walking next to her.

In most situations, you wouldn't be able to easily reject someone just because they got a little angry, would you? It's not just a matter of whether Akiharu will advance to, but whether he will attend school or leave school.

Yes. I would have made various conditions in exchange for accepting the job. You should be able to do most things.

"....."

Selnia was startled by his words.

It may have been an appalling statement, but it was more like, "I didn't know you had it in you."

I am more concerned about the future of the company.

Considering all the things we could have asked for in the autumn sun, we felt like we were doing a great disservice.

I involuntarily clenched my back teeth and immediately said, "No, it wasn't."

And deny thoughts that are taking you in strange directions.

It's a shame, a great shame, to be sure, but that's not what's important right now.

Selnia, ever the nemesis who always manages to disrupt the pace of the game, is determined not to be seduced again, and asks, "Did you really think you could just ask me to stay in a relationship in exchange for a chance to win my heart?"

They are direct and direct, and look for reactions.

Tomomi smiled and said, "No way. Tomomi smiles and says, "No way, that's not something you can joke about, is it?"

It's not surprising that you would say that.

How many times have I been shaken in ways that could be taken either seriously or jokingly?

Because of this experience, Selnia does not nod easily.

Perhaps sensing our skepticism, Tomomi smiled with a faintly wry smile and then stopped walking.

She stops just short of the locker room, and Selnia stops and looks back at her, raising an eyebrow.

And before I could ask what was wrong, the words came from the other party.

I can't tell you, because I'm afraid of rejection. I'm afraid of being rejected.

"..... or?"

It was so uncharacteristic of Tomomi Saikei that I couldn't believe my own ears.

Tomomi says to me as we face each other, over and over again, as if she is whispering to me.

"Isn't that right? If I say it out loud, and if I think that Akiharu will take me seriously and reject me at that point, I'll be too scared to say it out loud.

That's not very of you, is it?"

Oh, I thought I told you. I am a coward. I'm so timid that I don't even want to hear your confession if I can help it."

The self-mocking smile on his face does not look like a cowardly person.

But Selnia, who was listening, thought she was speaking the truth.

Because I am in a similar state of mind.

I'm supposed to hear back from you after the exams are over, but first I need you to decide if I'm going to advance to the next level. Failing the exam and not hearing back from is just not acceptable. I'd appreciate it if you could give me a break on that.

"..... is the only one I agree with."

(alt: "...I agree with you on that.") The truth is, "That's it."

I do not say so, although there are many areas where I agree with them.

There are those with whom you can show your vulnerable side and those with whom you do not want to show it.

Tomomi is the latter.

On the other hand, in her case, she might show it to Akiharu or to herself, and although it is very unwilling, I feel a little happy about it, and that is why Selnia doesn't want to say what she really thinks.

Selnia's face seemed to heat up and she turned away, not wanting her nemesis to see such an expression on her face.

Then he looked at the upper secondary students, who were standing in front of the locker room and looking at him with great interest, and said: "It's time to concentrate on the exam. It's time to focus on the exam, and not on the worst case scenario, where your partner is late and you can't pass the exam.

Yes, that's right. Well then, Ms. Selnia, let's do our best for each other, shall we?"

It's not up to us, though, is it?

Tomomi responds sarcastically to Tomomi's outgoing tone of voice.

And as Selnia walks toward the locker room, she mutters to Akiharu, who is not here, in her mind.

I'm not going to be disappointed if you expel me from school after making these two lovely maidens so jealous of me.

Since everyone seems to be ready, we will now begin the judging of the third event.

"..... uh finally?"

Muttering, Akiharu, who had been lying sprawled out on the track at the stadium, swelled up and got up.

After handing my costume to the maid in charge in front of the locker room, there was nothing in particular to do.

My breathing does not return to normal easily anymore, and with my limbs feeling sluggish, I have thought many times that I would like to go back to sleep, but instead of ignoring the voice of the Director, I get up on my feet with all my might.

We're going to show you the partners who have finished changing one by one on the screen, so if you like what you see, please press the switch I've handed out. The total of your presses and the ratings of the partners who actually wore the clothes will be the score for the third category.

Akiharu slowly moves to the front of the headquarters, listening to the explanation.

I delivered the costumes, but I don't know if I was able to change in time.

(alt: I delivered the costume properly, but I still don't know if I was able to change into it in time.) If it were, I might have been disqualified, but it doesn't take that long to put on, so I think it's probably okay.

The problem is the evaluation: "By the way, the top three passers will be the first three in order of score, but unfortunately some of them were disqualified because they exceeded the time limit. Hey, Fukakan, I guess it was too difficult to include the time for changing clothes, wasn't it?"

The difficulty level will go up, but it's a good test of both taste and judgment. And if my husband can't keep track of how long it takes me to get dressed, then he is not a good follower.

Listening to Shinkan's explanation, I almost feel convinced, but I wonder how he could make such a dash to get his clothes.

At least, it should not be an everyday scene.

Anyway, what is worrisome is that some of the players have already dropped out, and we don't know who they are.

If you recognize the scene and turn to your right, you will see the same aisle entrance as on the screen, with two cameras set up somewhat farther away.

I knew it was a reflection of this place.

This means that the upper elementary school students who have finished changing their clothes will come out from here.

Let's see what happened.

(alt: "Well, what happened...") "What's up, akaki? Are you worried?"

Hence, the two were talking to themselves, but before they knew it, Todoroki, who was standing right next to them, reacted and started talking to them.

Unlike myself, she still seemed to have plenty of time to relax, and she was back on the playing field earlier than anyone else.

Daichi was unusually slow, as it seemed to take him a long time to choose his clothes, and there should have been less than two minutes left for the last Shikikagami.

I think everyone had a relatively tough time.

Among them, only this man, who is usually a mixture of stupidity and eroticism, seemed to take it lightly.

I know he is a good worker, but I think he is too good.

Akiharu frowned, wondering what kind of magic he had used, but Todoroki, perhaps sensing our doubts, grinned.

It's called "daily conduct. It's a good thing I chose a partner with great luck, just in case. If it had been a girl, I would have brought my favorite erotic and sexy clothes.

"Oh,, but Daikichi's clothes are pretty bad, too, aren't they? Didn't you have a hard time choosing?"

There was very little men's clothing available, so there's plenty of room. And if you add my sense of style to the mix, you get Take a look."

When Todoroki pointed in the direction he wanted to go, he saw that the students of the upper secondary school were just about to come out of the passageway.

Leading the way was the much-talked-about Daikichi, a.k.a. Kouichiro Kazamatsuri, dressed in a white open-necked shirt with a gold jacket and silver sequined pants underneath, so dressed that one might ask where he was going to stage his magic show.

My first impression at a glance can be summed up in one word: "..... You have the worst sense of style."

Bubba, what the hell are you talking about? If I chose a decent outfit, there's no way Daikichi would wear it, right? So, as soon as that Narcissi put on those glasses in a fit of enthusiasm, there was no doubt that they were my glasses!

..... Well, maybe so, but come on.

(alt: "... Well, that might be true, but come on.") I actually looked at it and said, "What do you think of my sense of style?"

I'm not sure what to say.

(alt: Even if you say) Well, the important thing is that Daikichi is very proud of himself, so I guess it must have been a match for him.

Even now, he is stretching his chest out to the audience and saying, "..... shining clothes are a double-edged sword that can cast a shadow on the wearer, but if I, Kouichiro Kazamatsuri, wear it, it will become a garnish that will make me stand out.... It's a sin to have a luster that can even surpass that of a large rose!

..... is saying something poetic.

While it is true that the costumes are not inferior, there is something a little different about being so proudly dressed like a newly opened store.

While she was preoccupied with Daikichi, the other students of the upper secondary school began to gather in front of the aisle, and when she saw Selnia's figure among them, Akiharu felt relieved.

She is wearing a red one-shoulder dress and a mink stole that she chose herself, and it suits her well.

I just felt a little uncomfortable with somehow.

I don't know what it is, but taking into account the rather severe expression on Selnia's face, I don't think it's just my imagination.

(alt: I don't know what it is, but when you add in the fact that Selnia's expression is somewhat stern, it doesn't seem like it's just a whim.) While Akiharu was puzzling over the situation, his partner students came out one after another, but they were all in their school uniforms.

I guess that means they couldn't change their clothes in time, so they had to put them back on.

Then, Daikichi and Selnia are safe.

There were only two other students who had finished dressing:

One of them is Tomomi, the second to last.

I was dressed in a cut-and-sew, knit cardigan, and long skirt, so I guess I should say that I was able to change in time.

But the first thought that comes to my mind is "He's so plain.

(alt: However, the impression that comes first is... "That guy is really plain...") Hmm?" Oh, you mean the Princess of Saikyo. Really, she's very plain. It's as if she was at someone's funeral.

The cardigan is indigo, and the cut-and-sew is black.

The skirt, too, appears to be black with faint lines, but the dark brown color makes it extremely unnoticeable.

This must be due to Daichi's sense of style.

His clothes are often primary colors, dark and austere.

When we went shopping for clothes together, he never once showed any interest in brightly colored pants.

Well, Tomomi actually looks good in plain clothes, so that's something to be desired. But compared to her surroundings, she lacked glamour and didn't stand out.

(alt: Well, Tomomi actually looks good in plain clothes, so that's what it is... but compared to the people around her, she lacks glamor and doesn't stand out.) It will be interesting to see how this will affect the evaluation.

However, the person who really bothered me was behind Tomomi.

Saori Shikikagami, wearing a simple long dark brown dress, is naturally the partner of her younger sister, Sanae Shikikagami.

The problem is that Saori is wearing or what material is that dress made of?

The fabric looks strangely stiff or shiny, and there is a great sense of discomfort.

She was wearing light clothes and looked cold, which helped her to stand out from Tomomi, even though she was wearing the same plain color as Tomomi.

While the other students are lining up in front of the main table, the calm and slow Saori is lagging behind, as usual. but there is something wrong.

(alt: While the other students were lined up in front of the headquarters seat, it was normal for the calm and slow Saori-san to be late... but as expected, something was wrong.) He walks with a strange gait and barely swings his arms.? Maybe you need a break."

I was tempted to ask, "What the hell is he talking about after just a short walk?

Akiharu's suspicion grew stronger as he wondered if he was going to take a break and sit-in at this place, but it soon turned into astonishment.

Because the moment I thought Saori-san suddenly put her hand on her breast, she pulled off her clothes as if she was going to tear them to shreds.

He brought it to his mouth, popped it into his mouth, and ate it without hesitation.

"..... Um, Saori-san? What are you

Yes? What's wrong?"

Akiharu, holding back the urge to say, "You're the one who's lost your mind," tried his best to calm his confused mind.

Maybe the exam has been so hard that I'm having weird daydreams or hallucinations.

That much is impossible now.

Then, Shikikagami, dressed in a maid's outfit, came running and spoke to her sister in a panicked manner.

"Oh, sis, you can't do that, can you? You can't eat my clothes, no matter how many sweets they are made of!

But, Sanae-san, these clothes are so difficult to move around in that they make me tired. And since I overslept, I didn't eat breakfast today.

But you can't eat it because of that.

The conversation between the two sisters, which could not have taken place during an exam, gave Akiharu a slight headache as she pointed to Saori's clothes and asked, "Shikikagami, is that what you mean by sweets?"

What? Oh, yes, that's right. It's made from a specially refined, melt-proof, soft chocolate that was previously the focus of an Italian fashion show."

The explanation finally helped me understand the true nature of the discomfort.

I thought there was something wrong with that dress because it didn't sway at all, and it didn't wrinkle when I moved.

No wonder he was convinced by, but since the information was not positive in any way, Akiharu hurriedly voiced his protest to Shikikagami.

Why did you bring this? Considering Saori's character, there's no way you'll get through this!

But I thought she'd be happy if I dressed her in something trendy.

(alt: "But, I wondered if my sister would be happy if I dressed her up in trendy clothes...") "This is so trendy! I'm not saying they were trying to be popular, but I'm sure it was just a concept car to show that we have the technology to make something like this!

(alt: "This is going to be popular! I wouldn't go so far as to go to the show to get people to like it, but it was like a concept car. I'm sure!") "Oh, is that so? I thought it was a revolutionary item that you could wear and even eat if you got hungry.

It looks like a lot of work, and if you ate it, it would be gone in an instant, wouldn't it?

But, Mr. Hino, you are supposed to eat chocolate, right?

Saori, please don't eat while I'm talking!

I knew that I had already known enough, but with these two sisters together, I couldn't keep up.

And why is Saori-san taking the initiative in eating the chest and shoulders?

Despite Akiharu's concern about her eating from that part of the skirt, Saori, who doesn't seem to be bothered by it, cuts off a piece of chocolate from her left shoulder and says, "..... Oh?

Perhaps one of the chocolates couldn't support the weight of the body alone, and the remaining intact chocolate on the right shoulder broke with a cracking sound, and I thought, "Wait,?"

In order to avoid such an outrageous outdoor exposure, Akiharu hurriedly took off his morning coat and tried to hand it to Saori, but stopped when he pulled out his right arm.

No, it wasn't because I wanted to see a happy happening or anything like that, but for a different reason.

The clothes I had expected to fall off had lost their shoulders, but they had only been lowered a little and stopped.

The cause is obvious at a glance.

Saori's large breasts are preventing her from falling down from there.

I mean, how did this get here?

It should be worn from the bottom up, and is a little more flexible, so it won't rip or break if you wear it carefully, okay?"

"No, don't eat extra food while I'm explaining it to you!"

Saori-san, who continues to eat her chocolate clothes without seeming to be moved by the terrible trouble that is occurring, makes me feel not only dismay, but also mild fear.

What is this room?

Or is it a desired exposure frenzy?

While Akiharu was having a hard time dealing with his free-dam senior, a voice of help unexpectedly came over the loudspeaker.

I'm going to disqualify Shikikagami because she is eating her sister's clothes. I'm sorry, but please accept my apology.

(alt: "Um, Shikikagami-san, your sister ate the clothes that were the subject of the review, so I'm going to disqualify you." I'm sorry, but please accept this, okay? ♪) "Au u"

Shikki-Kagami's shoulders drooped in disappointment at the chancellor's decision, but it was reasonable.

There is no way the show will continue as it is, and no audience will judge the clothes as suitable in the first place.

Therefore, I think this is the correct decision., but there was one thing that was still bothering Akiharu.

(alt: That's why I think it's the right decision... but Akiharu still has one thing on his mind.) So I turned to the headquarters to check and said, "Who put those clothes there? That's crazy, I'll tell you that!"

When I asked the two people in charge in a loud voice, the answer came back immediately.

I'm sure you didn't find any of the clothes I ordered. What do you mean, Mr. President?

I thought it might be interesting, so I had some of them transported for me personally. I was surprised that there were students who chose them.

The President has no free time this afternoon because he will be speaking with you after

What? That's outrageous, Fukagan-chan

As promised, Kaede's pathetic voice echoed in the stadium, and Akiharu let out a big sigh of relief.

Scratching my head at the extra time I had to spend for the upcoming judging "As a follow-up, due to Saori Shikikagami's disqualification, only three of us were able to finish changing our clothes within the time limit. Therefore, we will continue the examination to determine the ranking, but the number of participants who have passed the test will be determined.

..... The news of the impact made me stop my hand and look at the headquarters.

Kaede looks depressed, but I don't think she was joking, as she is keeping her usual cool and expressionless face.

In the first place, there is no way that that frozen mandarin would make a joke like this.

And if you think about it, only four of us were changing clothes.

Now that Saori has been disqualified, it automatically means that the student in the obedience course who is paired with those three students has cleared the test.

That means, in other words, "Third kind, passing is nothing - no emotion, no sense of accomplishment"

It was an important exam with advancement at stake, but what was this depressing turn of events?

On the other hand, that's how difficult this event was. Well, yeah, it's not very exciting. (alt: If you think about it the other way around, that's why this event was so difficult.) It's a terrible thing to feel down when you're just plain tired.

While Akiharu was sitting there in a daze, he heard the footsteps of someone approaching from behind.

I turned around slowly and there was Oka, an obedience student, smiling tiredly, raising one hand and saying, "Hey, tired. Congratulations on clearing the test safely.

"Uh, sorry about that one, huh?"

I'm not sure if I can help it. I think it was the right size, though. I couldn't take more time to change my clothes or maybe I forgot that my opponent was a hardcore young lady and that's why I lost."

(alt: "Yeah, well, I guess it can't be helped. I think the size was right, but I didn't have more time to change clothes...or rather, I forgot that the opponent was a hardcore young lady, so I guess I lost.") Hmm?" What does that mean?"

In other words, we don't dash to the finish line because we're going to be late, and we don't walk and eat our morning bread because we have an urgent matter to attend to. Maybe they were in a hurry, but I don't think they got dressed in the heat of the moment.

(alt: "In other words, I'm not the type of person who runs with all my might just because I think I'm going to be late, and I'm not the type of person who walks around and eats my morning bread because I have something to do in a hurry. Um, but I don't think it's possible to change clothes with the momentum to create dust.") "Oh,, that's how it is."

Oka's explanation made Akiharu exclaim in admiration, "I agree with him.

The three remaining members certainly seem to change quickly.

Tomomi is a fast and efficient woman with the appearance of a commoner, while Selnia is able to handle herself when push comes to shove.

Saori, who was disqualified due to an accident, is good at taking off her clothes, so she probably would have been fine if she had just had a little time to put them on.

The remaining Daikichi is that narcissist who usually changes clothes early.

In this light, the choice of Selnia was the right one.

..... Well, the upper division students that I know personally are all different from other young ladies in some way, so things usually worked out well for them.

We're going to move on to the next one anyway, so you're going to have to work hard for us, okay? It's a little frustrating that there are only three boys left.

Oka says with a wry smile, but Akiharu shakes his head and says, "In my case, I was just lucky. If I had known the contents of the test, I would have chosen a more suitable opponent.

Yeah?" I think that Hino's ability, including the fact that he chose Flameheart, is an achievement. It's also true that we didn't have any luck.

I wish it was

I'm still here, so let's be positive. I'm going to go cheer Sanae up, so you guys hang in there."

Finally, with a cheerful tone of voice, Oka left with a light step.

He should be tired, but he's a smart guy with leadership skills.

Not only Oka, but the other girls who dropped out of the class had more than one advantage over her.

We can't show them our shame because we are going to push them away and move on.

After being cheered up by her friends, Akiharu regained her spirits and stood up vigorously, realizing that she could not stay idle for any length of time.

Then I saw Selnia in a dress coming from the other side of the room, and I raised my hand lightly to thank her.

"Good job, you're just in time."

..... It's true. You almost disqualified me.

(alt: "... It's true. I almost got disqualified.") What?" Was it that close?

She should have had less than five minutes to change, but she felt she could wear that dress in two or three minutes, which was surprising to Akiharu.

But Selnia's eyebrows shoot up at our words, and she raises her mouth slightly in exasperation: "This is not the time. It's time to get dressed!

You mean "size"? I thought you'd have plenty of time for that.

In fact, she seems to have a narrow waist for her height, and the dress she brought did not look tight around the waist.

But Selnia, her face flushed with anger, bared her teeth in protest.

I'm having a hard time with my breasts! I had to force them down!

"..... Oh."

(alt: "..... Oh") The valleys between her breasts were indeed quite large, as I had been told.

I thought the clothes were designed that way, but I guess they are supposed to be more modest.

The autumn sun was a welcome sight, but not for Selnia, who was apparently not happy: "I'm wearing this dress because I have to put up with the pressure of being suffocated! What a nonsense"

I don't care how tall you say you are or what your build is, but I don't know your exact three sizes, so I can't do it. If I were one size larger, wouldn't I look uncool with an extra waist?"

If so, it would be good if Akiharu could try to taste this bitterness. The fabric and stitching are good, so it hasn't ripped, but it really looks like it's going to tear at any moment.!

(alt: "Then Akiharu should also try to experience this pain. The fabric and stitching are good, so it's not torn, but... Really, it looks like it's going to burst at any moment...!") I would like to say that maybe she was brought up too much, but such an insinuation would inevitably result in a high-kick or a tensioner, so Akiharu silently expresses her sympathy for the situation.

But now I finally understand.

The reason for Selnia's unhappy expression and the slight discomfort I felt was because of the size of her bosom.

I usually only wear custom-made dresses, so I didn't expect this. I can't wait to get out of it and get comfortable.

"I can change after the screening, right? Aren't you done yet?"

I'm done. But we're still collecting the data, just to be safe, until we're done.

Suddenly, Selnia kept her mouth shut.

It was because a nearby speaker emitted a faint noise, and Akiharu, too, closed her mouth and looked at her seat at the main desk.

Perhaps a little time had passed and the shock of the sermon had worn off, but the president kept his eyes on his hands, smiled softly, and said, "Sorry to keep you waiting, but I'm afraid you're going to have to wait a little longer. The results of the tally and judging are in, and I'm going to announce them now. Well then, go ahead and take your time!"

In the third event, the first place went to Akiharu Hino. Second place went to Shingo Todoroki. Third place went to Kaoru Daichi.

This is a surprising result. I'm looking forward to seeing if there will be a big upset in the next and final event.

The announcement from the headquarters was met with sparse applause from the audience. Well, since the first and second places are so bad, this is a reasonable response.

Even so, Akiharu was pleased to be in the provisional top position, and he clenched his fists and struck a small gut-pose.

I don't know how much this first place means, but at least it gave us some momentum.
(alt: I don't know how much meaning this first place has, but at least it has gained momentum.)
Now that the announcement has been made that the next exam will be the last one, we just have to give it our all.

The question is what to do at the end, and Akiharu listens to the voice of the president coming over the speaker, trying to catch his breath.

Now, the final event is coming up, and it will be held right after this. As befitting a final event, the remaining contestants will be asked to make their appeals!

Hearing this, Akiharu frowns.

"Appeal" is too vague and difficult to understand what it means.

Does this mean that they are going to have interviews from now on?

As Akiharu folded his arms, unable to resolve the question that arose in his mind, he saw the expressionless Fukayasu exhale in a somewhat dismayed manner.

..... Mr. President, it is not an appeal, but a speech, to be precise. Please explain in detail.
(alt: "... Chairman, it's not a mistake to make an appeal, but it's more of a speech. Please give me a detailed explanation.』) The third-place finishers will be judged for the final event, and they will be asked to give a speech, not an appy..... The time limit is one minute, and the content is your statement.

In this session, they will talk about what they have learned at Hakuryo College of Education and their visions for moving on to the next level and graduating. However, the content will be left up to your discretion, so you may simply ask for support.

As I mentioned earlier, you will use the voting switch to vote for the student you think is the best candidate. The final ranking will be determined by the number of votes cast.

The two voices echoing in the quiet stadium made Akiharu think as he put his hand on the safety pin in his right ear.

You mean like the popularity contest?"

I think the nuance of the word "election" is correct. In addition to the work you've done so far, the key will be how much you can win the hearts and minds of the audience in a short speech.

"I see... .. Then, the most formidable enemy is"

Muttering to herself, she turns to look in the direction of her roommate, but is stopped dead in her tracks by the voice of the board chairperson.

The reason for this is that the content of the test was: "This will be the start of the final event of the Nurturing Department Progression Examination. The top batter, Mr. Todoroki, please proceed to the microphone stand in the center of the field.

I'm sure you have a very tight schedule at" You don't even have time to change.

(alt: "... It's a very tight schedule, isn't it? I don't even have time to change clothes.") Selnia says with a sigh, but for Akiharu, it's not about that.

For a moment, I was stunned into a stupor, but the seriousness of the situation soon drove me to scratch the back of my head and say, "Oh, my God! I haven't thought about what I'm going to say at all!

It's disgraceful. You are in third place, so you should be a little more relaxed.

You see, I've been thinking about this for a while. Compared to the Roar, it's still better.

I was about to yell at him out of reflex, but I was able to avoid it at the last moment.

Unusually, Selnia was right.

The first place in the previous event and being last in the speech order should be a joyous occasion to make the most of.

However, that doesn't change the fact that time is short.

I was in a bit of a pinch because I had no idea what to say for the entire minute.

Perhaps she sensed our impatience, Selnia sniffed a little and seemed to be about to fold her arms" but stopped mid-sentence and put her hands on her hips.

I think if I had pulled my arms in closer, I would have almost done something terrible to my chest.

I'm going to go back to the auditorium. I suggest you use your brains as best you can to make your speech a little better.

"..... Oh, I'll try my best."

(alt: "... Ah, I'll try my best.") Normally, it would sound like she was being provoked or made fun of, but she could tell that Mr. Drill meant it as a pep talk, so Akiharu responded by raising her hand in a mature manner.

As I watched Selnia's voluminous vertical rolls swaying on her back as she made her way back to the auditorium at her usual fast pace for a girl, it appeared that Roar's speech had started.

Akiharu ignores the voices coming over the speakers and engrosses himself in his thoughts.

I need to have my thoughts in order before my turn comes, which could be as early as in a few minutes.

..... but in fact, I don't know what to say.

(alt: ... But really, what should I say?) If I were to talk about what I want to do after I graduate or move on to the next grade, one minute would be too short to talk about it all. I might just summarize the main points, but I don't know if I can do that well without a lot of fluff... Hino, can I have a word?

As Akiharu was once again feeling the difficulty of the final exam, someone approached him from right beside him.

Although there was no sign of him, he knew who it was by the sound of the voice, so he turned around without being upset and said, "It's not so good. And it's your turn next, right?"

Daichi glanced behind him and said, "I'm fine. As soon as the roar is over, we can get started."

"What brings you to?"

"I'm busy, so please leave me alone."

However, I think it was a good moment.

It's an important exam, and you should have no complaints if you fail it.

The reason why Akiharu responded to her was because Daichi knew that, yet he spoke to her in this way, and because his eyes were serious.

It is nearly impossible to ignore such a quiet expression of motivation.

I can understand why they came all the way here.

We didn't spend a lot of time together as roommates.

Do you remember the game at?

As expected, the story was right.

Just as she had expected, Akiharu didn't hesitate to say "Ah!"

Daichi nodded and said, "That's fine. I'm sorry it's not a competition, but I'll give it my all."

(alt: When I replied, Daichi gave a small nod and said, "That's fine. It's a pity it's not about competing, but I'll give it my all.") It's hard to ask them to go easy on us, but I guess that's what we have to do."

"....., I'm not even going to say that from the beginning."

(alt: "... I had no intention of saying such a thing from the beginning.") Daichi smiles, raising the corners of his mouth just a little.

A fearless smile should be the best way to go into battle, but strangely enough, it's the "adorable" that fits best.

and "Pretty."

I was surprised at the unexpectedness of the expression.

She was a little confused as to what she was doing to a man with a beautiful face, but she was not sure herself.

(alt: Even though she had a pretty face, Akiharu was a little confused as to what she was getting confused about with a man.) Was it that fatigue permeated my brain?

If I had to run around with the exam content, I might have collapsed in the middle of the exam.

As Akiharu was trying to understand whether he was lucky in a sense, Daichi's smile disappeared and his expression tightened, "— — the speech of Todoroki is over, isn't it?"

Oh? Wow, that's real."

After being told, I finally notice that I can no longer hear the roaring voice, which I had only perceived as a disturbing noise.

It seems another minute has passed.

As if to prove that there was no mistake, the voice of the President came over the nearby loudspeaker.

The top batter, Mr. Todoroki, gave his speech. Then let's go with the flow and start Mr. Daichi's appeal time.

The light tone of his voice blows away the tension of the test, but Daichi's expression remains the same: "I'm going to"

With a short, challenging voice, he walked to the microphone stand in the middle of the field.

Then, as if to replace him, Todoroki, who had been speaking first, comes straight up to us and smiles a hearty smile.

What did you do? I gave a speech that was so powerful, it had to be made into a movie! Was it too much pressure for you?

Akiharu wondered for a moment how he should respond to Todoroki, who was so proud of him that he seemed to want him to praise and admire him, but in the end he decided to reply straight back.

I'm sorry, I didn't listen at all.

(alt: "Sorry, I didn't hear you at all") "Oh, no! Hey, it's the final exam, and it's the final battle between the three of us who survived the corpses of our comrades! And what's with your indifference?

He said, "No, it was the last time, and that's why I was concentrating on myself. What did you talk about?"

I really wanted to spend more time thinking, but today's roar was something else.

Perhaps this may be of some help.

As Akiharu got ready to listen to him, Todoroki regained his composure and held up his right thumb, saying, "About my harem plan that I plan to complete in the near future! Everyone was listening in fascination at the sheer scale of it all!"

..... I'm so sorry you had to hear that."

Akiharu sighed heavily as he spoke frankly about his impressions.

No, a fool is still a fool.

Moreover, they are dreamers and cannot be given mercy at the level of a spider's web, which is irredeemable.

Akiharu said, "I don't have it."

Perhaps not surprised that Todoroki didn't accept her total denial of his existence, he stomped on the ground with exaggerated body language like a soccer player expressing disapproval at being called for a foul, "Why the hell not? You're really taking one for the happy-go-lucky life with all those girls, aren't you!

"No, I don't think so. Stop that "I know what you're thinking" look, or I'll hit you."

"Be honest with me! I'm sure that sullen big earth will agree with you. Now that you're talking about it, let's listen a little and decide, shall we?"

For some reason, he made such a proposal with the air of a winner in mind.

It is a bit of a mystery how this guy can never doubt his own righteousness, not even for a second.

But I'm still curious to see what Daichi, our worst enemy, will say about it.

When Akiharu turned his attention to Daichi standing in front of the microphone stand, he seemed to have started speaking at just the right time, and he could hear a louder voice coming from the speaker.

"I will spend the next two years at Hakuryo to improve myself and do what I want to do.

With that, Daichi quickly turns on his heel and turns away from the microphone.

Watching the situation, Akiharu opened his mouth and said, "..... No, that's it. It was over in five seconds.

He was really just expressing his enthusiasm.

It was too simple, and the audience did not even applaud.

They must have been as stunned as I was.

I am unable to say anything at all at the roar of the bell.

Daichi is not the type to speak eloquently, but even so, this was unexpected.

I know you think you have put everything into one word, but it's impossible to kill with one blow in a speech.

It is more agreeable than rambling on.

It seems like Daichi.

However, the most important thing for Akiharu was the question, "Is it over already? Well then, the last one, Akiharu Hino, go ahead and do your best.

..... It meant I had no time to think!

I wish they would give me at least as much thinking time as the regulations allow, but apparently that's not possible.

Kaede's excited face, just before the main event at the headquarters, and Fukagan's cold gaze, as if even a cyborg would have a little more warmth, made me realize that I was in for a surprise.

"Here, here, this is your chance to show off your skills. You're gonna look so cool if you laugh here!"

I'm going to to to go."

With Todoroki's voice in the background, which could only be considered a prank, Akiharu went forward with no plan at all.

Since Daichi did not come this way, but moved to the side, we could not complain as we passed each other.

Well, he was just doing what he did because he was serious about it, and it was just for my convenience.

If you've been cutting back on time as a strategy, I think that's great.

In the center of the track and field field field, Akiharu approaches the microphone stand there, and thinks desperately about what to say., but no good words come to mind.

(alt: Akiharu desperately thought about what to say as he approached the mic stand erected in the center of the track and field grounds... but he couldn't come up with any good words.) No miraculous spark of inspiration, and before you know it, you're in front of the microphone.

Then, Akiharu felt not only the impatience of not being able to organize the content of his speech, but also became concerned about the stares from the audience, causing cold sweat to form on his back.

How could both Todoroki and Daichi talk in such a place?

I'm so nervous that I'm going to bite myself.

I was so unprepared that I couldn't even remember to take a deep breath to calm down.

In spite of such a situation, he said, "Well, this is the last time, isn't it? Akiharu-san, please start the game.

The signal to begin came mercilessly, and Akiharu bit her lip.

I can't think straight, to the point where I wonder if this is what it means to go blank.

In the middle of the silent stadium, with everyone's attention focused on me, I had no idea what to say.

She was even more impatient thinking that time would pass even while she was doing so, and she wandered her gaze from side to side in a state of panic, "....."

I saw Daichi staring at me.

Akiharu gulps when he sees the serious expression on his roommate's face, even though his turn has already come to an end.

Then, almost subconsciously, I turn around and look at the two people standing in line in front of the headquarters.

Tomomi and Selnia were watching us, along with other upper division students who had partnered with us in the third event.

I wondered what kind of change of heart they had undergone, both of them standing side by side with similar expressions on their faces.

I had expected either an anxious look on his face or a gesture of frustration at not being able to speak up, but my expectations were proven wrong.

..... They are not good friends, but they look at each other and at themselves with an interesting expression, as if they are both ready for battle.

Just watching, just paying attention, and not the other "go for it."

"Stay with me!" and "Stay with me!"

I can't even see the kind of emotion that would be required to make such a statement.

There's just so much faith that you can't hold on to.

I felt that the "I" in the "I" in the "I" was the "I".

Akiharu couldn't help but chuckle at this.

Then he turned to face forward.

..... It is very difficult to mess up when someone like that is believed without question and without hesitation.

That's too uncool.

If I didn't at least prove to myself that he was worthy of my trust, I was going to be unable to forgive myself.

I met a lot of people and learned a lot of things at Hakuryo.

The voice that came out of the microphone bounced back from the speaker and hit Akiharu's ear.

Before I knew it, my mind was clear and the words came out naturally, even though I hadn't really thought about them.

At times like this, I think I feel like I can concentrate without any distractions, but that doesn't seem to be the case for me.

The words and structure of a speech are not in my head, but in my mind's eye, and all that comes to mind is a person's face.

I met people I would never have met at any other school, I was amazed that these upper-class people lived a life I had never imagined, I nearly died in the crazy and demanding obedience classes, and even though I had been there less than a year, every day at Hakuryo was so intense and fulfilling."

I'm not sure if it's the face of the black-hearted childhood friend I met on my first day at school, or the blonde-haired driller who suddenly treated me as a suspicious person and then got involved with me every time I tried to get into trouble.

(alt: — — What comes to mind is the face of a black-hearted childhood friend that I met again on the first day of transfer, and the blonde drill who suddenly became entwined after being treated like a suspicious person.) The senior who is a world-class painter but is shy and withdrawn, or the princess who, like the senior, has never quite fit into the big box garden that is Hakuryo.

The classmate who is helplessly clumsy, but is a hard worker and loves her sister, and the senior classmate who can barely do anything, but is very beautiful and loves her sister.

The duo includes a ladylike, innocent Middle Eastern lady and her deadly, tongue-tied maid-servant, as well as a Chinese girl who is tall and stylish but lacking in confidence.

I was often impressed by the versatility of my taciturn roommate, and I was fed up with the only male student in upper secondary education, who was also a high-spec student, and who was a pervert with full-blown narcissism.

I have always seen the all-around idiot, who lives bare of his true instincts, using his pseudo-Kansai dialect, and his devoted partner, who is pursued by his followers but rarely complains, as a target close to my heart.

I was helped and reminded in many situations by my fellow students in the obedience department and by the ladies in the upper secondary education department, with whom I do not usually have much contact.

I was also indebted to the bonkers, lazy, and playful president, as well as to the teachers, including the excellent maids, who did their jobs while being pushed around by him.

Every day was hectic, afternoon classes were difficult, and I think there were times when I was depressed because I didn't do well in my service activities.

All in all, every day was fulfilling.

But it is precisely because I think so that I feel strongly about it.

But there are still so many things I can't do, and I think I'm not good at all. I don't think I'm good enough to be useful to anyone.

I think this is especially true when I see seniors who are actually fulfilling their roles as professionals, even compared to their peers in the education department.

I am not even close to Mika or Hedier.

Not only in a technical sense, but also in the spiritual role of supporting someone.

It is precisely because I feel so much frustration that I don't want to end up in a halfway house like this.

So, in the next two years, I'm going to try to be a little more useful, and that's what I'm trying to do. I'd appreciate it if you'd let me do it.

After talking up to that point, Akiharu let out a small breath.

..... There was no sense of accomplishment, of having said all there is to say.

However, I feel that I was able to speak my current thoughts without embellishment.

As Akiharu's head was feeling dazed and tired, he heard the voice of the president of the board of directors.

I guess it was finished on time. Then, please step back, Akiharu-san.

The students in the audience and in front of the main office will now cast their votes. Only one vote per person will be accepted, so please be careful not to make a mistake by pressing the switch in your hand.

Hearing the voice of Fukaba supplementing with exquisite breathing, Akiharu returns to the original direction as instructed.

It was a little sad that there was no applause.

When I looked at the audience, Tomomi had her hands folded behind her back and Selnia had her hands on her hips, so there seemed to be no intention to applaud.

It's funny, because they are supposed to have some kind of special affection for each other.

Well, maybe they are not the kind of people who would applaud just for completing an exam.

If you want to do it, it's time to announce the results.

It may be only when they win first place.

I'm going to list the names in order now, so please vote for the person you think did well.

Let's do it!

Akiharu stops and looks back to the headquarters when he hears the voices coming from the speakers installed in various places.

Now, if you think Shingo Todoroki was the best, please turn it on!

And the final examination, which may be related to the future of Akiharu and his friends, has begun.

While Akiharu was a little cautious to confirm for the first time, the two in front of him were not at all bothered by it, but rather had an imposing attitude. I've already discussed it with Ms. Selnia.

That's what I mean. It's nothing for you to worry about now.

If Tomomi and Selnia say so, we certainly can't help but be concerned.

However, since she had not thought about this situation for a moment, Akiharu tried to calm herself down by letting out a small breath.

After the exam, I had just showered and changed into my uniform, and yet I was sweating from the exam-like tension.

Akiharu called them back to their original school uniforms, but he had them go to different places at different times (.....). But when they arrived at the flower garden near the dormitory, they found that they were already together.

I felt like turning right around and going home.

I'm not exactly a third party, but still, it makes me sick to my stomach because of the content of the confession.

Since when is a thing? Where do we know each other from?"

I don't know that much. In my case, I only know that Ms. Selnia has already confessed her feelings to Akiharu and that she is going to receive his answer today.

(alt: "I don't know much about it. In my case, Selnia-san has already confessed to Akiharu and I will receive a reply today.") I'm just like him.

"..... are you guys really, really close?"

Why do they have to go together to eat, to mobile classrooms, and to the bathroom?

The two of us don't like the flippancy of the "I'm curious about the confession reply event."

Do you accompany them only when they are in the same room?

Well, it has a completely different meaning from that of a normal good friend of a female student.

As Akiharu put his hands on his temples, saying that, after all, being together with her had made him feel several times worse, Selnia, with her arms folded and her attitude somewhat stout, said, "Well, by the way, I do want to say 'congratulations' to you.

What? What are you talking about"

She frowned at the sudden remark, not understanding the flow of events, but it hit her immediately, so she kept her mouth shut.

I can think of only one reason to congratulate them.

Before Akiharu could answer, Tomomi, smiling beside Selnia, opened her lips slightly and said, "Oh, Akiharu, are you too tired to think you've lost your mind? Or are you just pretending that the result is not worthy of praise?"

That's not what I meant. Well, I'm not sure if I can openly rejoice with all my hands. (alt: "It's not like that.... Well, I'm not sure if I can raise my hands and be happy.") But isn't that asking too much? At least, I think I should be satisfied, don't you?"

Tomomi smiled at him, as she always does when playing the honor student, and said, "You should be proud of yourself for making it to the next grade.

..... I hate it when he says things like that because it makes me think that there is something behind it.

They are probably telling the truth, but I have experienced too many things to accept them honestly.

But, well, I think we should be happy about it.

The results of the examinations showed that all the students in the Education Department were successful in advancing to the next level, so it would be strange if they were not happy.

The director mentioned that most of the students were allowed to advance to the next level once they had passed the first category.

However, I and Todoroki had to exceptionally clear the second category. To be honest, I think it was pretty close.

(alt: However, I and Todoroki had to clear the second category as an exception... Honestly, I think it was pretty dangerous.) At the same time, I could understand why the third event was so unreasonable.

In other words, from that point forward, it was like a bonus stage, and that is why Mikanaka did not want to shut down the president's playful spirit to such an extent.

We need to decide on the ranking, but the most important item is after the completion of the project.

If Akiharu is still not able to raise his hands in joy, that is his own problem.

I don't know about, but we lost.

(alt: "...But, I lost.") Are you saying you're not satisfied with second place?

"Oh,, that must be what it's all about."

I scratched my head and nodded in my heart at Selnia's words.

As a result of the test, Daichi took the first place and Akiharu took the second place.

I was frustrated by this, but at the same time I was satisfied with the outcome, which left me feeling a little hazy. That must mean I wasn't satisfied with the results.

(alt: At the same time as I was frustrated by that, I was satisfied with the outcome, and there was still some confusion... In other words, I guess I wasn't satisfied.) I felt a little more at ease because I felt like the extra piece was in the right place.

It may seem strange to say this, but it is a good time for me to have come to terms with my feelings.

Thinking so, Akiharu lightly touched the safety pin attached to his ear with his right hand, and then asked, "Can I say something in reply to both of you?"

I never thought I would be in a situation where I would have to do it with another person present, and the courage I had prepared for this almost fled in a flash, but somehow I was determined to do it.

Tomomi first said, "Yes," in this preview.

The first time I saw her, she nodded her head slightly, and for some reason, Selnia pulled her chin back.

Tension filled the flower garden, and it felt as if the air had become thin and suffocating. I am tempted to run away and let this atmosphere crush me, but I can't do that.

Telling himself that he had already thrown his lot in with the others, Akiharu turned his attention to the person who had invited him to this meeting.

Selnia's eyes shook a little, as if she understood that they were coming for her.

But it only lasts a moment, and soon you're like, "Hey, come on!"

They look back at me with a bullish look in their eyes as if to say, "You've got to go.

"....., you'll start with me, won't you?"

Oh. That's the way it should be in order. I mean, you're the only one who invited her here in the first place, right? You brought Tomomi here on your own."

"Ugh, you must be making a lot of noise. Just quickly come to a conclusion!

The tone of voice is a little less sharp than usual, and I realize that this person is also nervous.

If you look closely, you can see that the hand with the folded arms is clenched so tightly that it almost damages the fabric of the coat.

I think she is cute in this way, Akiharu honestly thinks.

So I added my feelings to the words I had prepared, and said them as if to release the tension that was choking me.

I think I like you a lot.

"..... So, what is it?"

Oh. It was fun to be with him, and I was happy when he confessed his feelings to me. At the very least, I think I like him more than a normal friend.

It is quite embarrassing to say this, but I will persevere.

Selnia's face is also turning bright red, and Tomomi, who is just listening, has a slight tinge in her cheeks.

Telling herself that this is like an ordeal, Akiharu speaks the rest of the words not to Selnia, but to Tomomi.

The moment our eyes meet, I'm like, "Oh, you're over here?"

The first time I went to a restaurant, I was surprised by the look on their faces, but I didn't care and pushed on.

When Tomomi asked me to go out with her, I was confused and had a few doubts, thinking it was a joke or a trap, but I was still happy.

..... sounds like a lot of hogwash, doesn't it?"

"It's just a fact, can't be helped, right? I'm about 70 percent sure I know you inside and out, but you're not a person I can truly admire, you know. It's impossible to have a normal relationship with you, that's for sure.

I'm going to take this opportunity to say it out loud.

In this embarrassing atmosphere, it's good to say the things that normally stop us in our tracks out of fear.

While Akiharu was starting to have a little fun, Tomomi had a look of awe and amusement on her face that could best be described as don't-know-what. "..... wow Even if you're going to shake it, you should have a better line than that.

(alt: In contrast to Akiharu, who was getting a little more happy, Tomomi's expression turned into a smirk that was perfect for "Don pull", saying, "... Uwaa... Even if I shake it, there are a few more decent lines. I guess...") It's important to have a good daily routine. I was defeated by Daichi today, and it reminded me of that.

But that doesn't mean there's no such thing as a right way to say things, you know? I'm so heartbroken, it's a little too much to ask you to bludgeon me to death with a machete, don't you think?"

You're the one who's always happy to rub salt in people's wounds when you find them, don't you think? And while we're at it.

..... What? Still not gutted enough?

Tomomi's usual composed performance is gone, and she glares at me with a pissed-off look on her face.

Moreover, her eyes were a little moist, which was strangely adorable.

I don't know why I feel like I'm doing something wrong, but it seems like I'm being misunderstood to begin with, so I open my mouth to correct the misunderstanding.

(alt: For some reason, I felt like I was doing something wrong, but since it seemed that I had been misunderstood in the first place, Akiharu opened his mouth to correct it.) Why are you assuming that you're going to get dumped in the first place?

What? Because the way the conversation is going, that's right, isn't it? She says she likes Selnia. Don't tell me you're two-timing me, Akiharu?

Don't be afraid to take it to the extreme, okay? No, no, no, no, no.

The first time I saw her, she looked at me as if she was going to curse me, and I hurriedly waved my hand to the side and said, "I like Selnia, but I also like you. If I had only met either one of you at a normal school, not in a special place like Hakuryo, I would have probably accepted and gone out with you without much hesitation, or I would have confessed to you myself.

..... Hmmm." You're two-timing after all, aren't you?"

You're so brazen in your two-timing proclamations. Did you just think you were the popular type?

..... Funny, I'm getting cold feelings from the two of them, not just goodwill, but almost murderous feelings.

Why is the atmosphere so bleak? Where did I make a mistake?" Akiharu, sweating coldly, held his hands out in front of his chest and said, "Calm down. and talk with as much seriousness as possible.

That's not what I'm saying. I like you both, but...

Breaking off, Akiharu sucked in a breath to gather the courage he needed and said, "I'm sorry, I don't feel like going out with anyone right now.

(alt: Pausing for a moment, Akiharu took a deep breath, trying to squeeze out the courage he needed, and said, "...Sorry. Right now, I don't feel like dating anyone.") I didn't want to say this, but I had to, so I said it out loud as if I were going to bungee jump the tallest building in the world, Macau Tower.

I am afraid of the reaction, but I must take responsibility for what I have decided.

Worst-case scenario, it might destroy your existing friendships, but it's a "special relationship. If you refuse to be a member, you must be prepared to accept the challenge.

I couldn't look away, even if I wanted to make every effort to prevent that from happening.

"What does mean to?"

Tomomi looks at me without saying a word, and Selnia, who looks a little upset, puts her hand on her waist and asks me a question.

Since he knew he would be asked, he put his hand over his right ear and said, "I felt it keenly during today's exam, but I still don't have enough at all. I was able to get second place, but it was mostly just luck. In reality, I think I'm only good enough to make average level. I'm not being modest or anything.

..... So?"

For some reason, Selnia's brow is wrinkled in irritation, but she lets it slide for now and continues as requested.

When I decided to transfer to Hakuryo, I was determined not to quit and to do the best I could. But in reality, I am just barely advancing to the next level. If it hadn't been for that one-shot reversal system-like advancement test, there's a good chance that Todoroki and I would have failed."

So you want to tell me that you don't have time to hang out with girls?

Tomomi's harsh, but accurate words are met with a nod of the head.

I thought that if I got the top rank in the entrance exam,..... I might be able to get into a relationship with her, since she is doing so well, but she is still like this. It was too close to call, but the difference was obvious."

The number of votes cast by the president was over 100 votes for the Grand

I had less than ten votes, and Todoroki had only one miraculous vote.

The difference between the second and third places is small, but the difference between the first place and the second place is about the same as the difference between a luxury tower condominium and a shabby apartment.

When I heard the news, I thought, "I knew it," rather than "I'm sorry.

(alt: When I heard it, rather than regret, I thought, "As expected.") I am not sure I can forgive them for that, although I am a little bit concerned about the fact that I am the first one to do so

.....

(alt: That feeling comes first... even though it's my fault, I can't forgive it.) If you try to make an easy transition, saying, "Well, I tried my best and failed, so it can't be helped," you will probably lose the next time.

This will never win over Daichi or Todoroki, and it will never be accepted by most of the students in the upper secondary education department.

That's why I'm not going to go out with someone for a while. At least until he is recognized by the other upperclassmen and by the quiet, until he can be a useful guy.

I think you can work hard and grow even while dating, though, don't you?"

Tomomi has a point.

The quiet tone of his voice makes him even more convincing.

Even so, Akiharu only scratched his head and returned the gift without wavering.

I think people who can do it can do it, but it's too hard for me. I'm not the type of person who can juggle both and be good at it all.

No, that's enough.

Selnia interrupted us, her voice laced with clear anger.

But I think that's natural.

Since he rejected my confession for his own selfish reason, it would be strange if he wasn't angry.

Especially if you are an emotional Selnia.

Akiharu was prepared to accept the situation, but then he realized something was a little strange.

Selnia is certainly angry.

There is no doubt about it.

..... But while he is annoyed and angry, why is it Tomomi who is glaring at him, and not himself? Tomomi was also looking somewhat happy and proud, or at least she seemed to have a cheerful expression on her face, which is something that should not be the case given the current situation.

Akiharu wondered what was the meaning of this, and tried to ask Selnia about it, but at that moment, Mr. Drill's severe gaze came to him and said, "Hey, Akiharu! Can't you say it in a different way?"

"Oh, yeah," huh? Uh, and, what do you mean"

Tomomi was absolutely, infuriatingly right! It's not normal that they say almost the same things, no matter what they do!

"Wait, you're right... ..?"

Halfway confused, Akiharu looked at his childhood friend for an explanation, but when he saw Tomomi's unbearable smile there, he instantly thought, "Could it be?"

I realize that I am not a good person.

However, before she could verbalize it in her head, Tomomi's lips formed a wry smile and she said, "When I was arranging to talk to Selnia-san together, I had a little prediction. "Based on the results of the test, shall we try to guess what Akiharu is going to say to us? And then, "Let's guess what Akiharu is going to say to us based on the results of the test.

"Wait, wait, wait., you mean I'm"

Not word-for-word, but I think I got most of it right. Right, Ms. Selnia?"

I was so impressed with the way the two of you discussed the script that I thought there was a script at all.

The first thing that comes to mind is the fact that the "Selnia" is in a foul mood, but Akiharu doesn't have the luxury of worrying about it.

The shocking fact made my head spin and I wanted to just collapse.

..... was expected.

After all that passionate talk, they were expecting it.! Does that mean that Tomomi's uncharacteristic facial expressions and babbling was done with her reaction in mind?

"..... お前 は..... 魔女 か... .."

(alt: ".....Are you.....a witch.....") "Oh, what are you saying to your adorable childhood friend? Besides, I was pretty excited myself."

"..... Wow, I've never heard a line so untrue and unconvincing."

(alt: "... Wow, this is the first time I've heard such unrealistic and unconvincing lines.") Who do you think is responsible? It's your fault. You have a poor imagination and a limited vocabulary.

As Akiharu droops down, Selnia's merciless words pour down on him.

I think I can be forgiven for going home crying now.

In reality, however, this is not the case, so Akiharu sighs heavily, raises his face, and opens his mouth while rubbing his eyebrows with his fingertips.

..... As expected, Hahaha, that's the conclusion I reached. Sorry."

You don't have to apologize. Or is this just an excuse and you simply don't want to be with me or Ms. Selnia? Or do you just want to postpone your decision?"

"No, of course not! But I...

I know. I know that. That's why I said you don't have to apologize. I want you to go out with me, that's what I want, and you can't right now, that's what Akiharu wants, isn't that right?

Tomomi said casually, and I saw Selnia nodding in agreement.

I'm a little annoyed, but Tomomi is right. And it's enough for now that you told me what Akiharu thinks of me.

Is that what is for?"

It could be because I was convinced of the reason. If you are ashamed of your immaturity and inability to fulfill your duty, then you have a right to make that choice.

This kind of language makes me think once again that she is not just a driller, but a noblewoman.

He seems to be a great guy, but he is not arrogant, just saying the most obvious things, which is casually amazing.

Tomomi is amazing that she guessed the conclusion I made before I told her, and I feel like I'm doing myself a disservice just by being liked by these two people.

At least, not for me right now.

So, I have to work hard to become a full-fledged professional as soon as possible.

I think it would be better to have her work hard from now on, and if she thinks she has become a full-fledged person, then we can ask her again if she wants to go out with us or not. And"

As Akiharu was renewing his resolution, Tomomi's mouth suddenly fell open and she said, "You don't have to wait for me to make you fall in love with me so much that you'll want to reverse your decision. I guess it would be faster that way."

I'm sure you've heard of Tomomi! What are you talking about?

I'm sure I didn't say anything funny. It's not uncommon for people to change their minds over time.

(alt: "Oh, you didn't say anything strange, did you? It's not common for people to change their minds over time.") That's true, but it's not the right thing to say at this point!

"Really? I thought it was more fair than doing it secretly without saying anything, you know?"

Tomomi giggles happily, and Selnia's anger gauge seems to have been easily maxed out, and she begins to threaten with her teeth.

The best way was to explain and convince each person one by one.

Even putting aside the love triangle situation, the chemistry between them is just too much.

Just when Akiharu was wondering which was better, whether to quiet them down or to maintain silence so as not to add fuel to the fire, he saw someone entering the flower garden.

It is not good to be seen having a lover's quarrel here, so Akiharu hurriedly changes his position to hide the two of them from view.

It won't buy her much time, but the perceptive Tomomi should be able to switch over quickly.

In order to make them aware of the presence of a third person, they tried to call out to someone who came by and immediately recognized the person as someone they knew.

"Hey, Earth? How did it get here?"

Since I was exempted from service activities today, I thought I was either resting to recover from the exam or helping Todoroki and the others prepare for the end-of-exam party in the evening at the dormitory.

It seems that he did not come to the flower garden for a walk by chance, and when he spotted us, Daichi came running up to us.

She was changing into her casual jersey, and upon closer inspection, her hair was still wet.

While she was tilting her head, Daichi stopped right in front of Akiharu and looked anxiously at Tomomi and Selnia behind her and said, "Hino, I have a few things to do. are you in the middle of something?"

Uh,, well, I guess you could say I'm in the middle of something.

"..... No way either, you know... ..either of you and I are going to go out or?"

Akiharu was a little taken aback because he had not expected such a question to come out of Daichi's mouth.

Well, since he was a classmate of Tomomi's and was at the scene of her confession, it may be a natural question.

It is unclear why Selnia is counted.

For the time being, Akiharu decides to give a simple explanation, and a wry smile appears on his face.

I can't be the kind of lighthearted person who can go out with someone just because you beat me in an exam," he said. I can't do that, at least not until I become a top student in the obedience department, or until I'm recognized as a full-fledged student by Fukagan."

You mean, as in, and you're still not dating anyone?

For the record, yes.

When Daichi responds, his expression softens as if he is relieved for some reason.

Is it possible that the reason he seems somewhat happy is because he didn't get a girlfriend first? Before Akiharu could even mention it, Tomomi's voice came from behind him.

So, what's up with Daichi? Don't you have something to do with Akiharu-kun?"

Oh, yeah. But...

I don't mind if you don't mind," he said. I've already done what I came here to do."

Since even Selnia said so, Akiharu decided to keep his opinion to himself.

It's better than having to pry too deeply into what we were talking about, and the appearance of Daichi has certainly kept things from getting too wild.

Tomomi and Selnia both pulled out, which made Daichi somewhat nervous.

Akiharu frowned and wondered what kind of business he was looking for, since he did not remember anything being said with this kind of facial expression.

With these words, he realizes that he has forgotten an important promise.

Although she had been confirmed in the final event, she had been so preoccupied with her confession that she had completely lost it.

"Oh, yeah, that's right. You won, so you can say whatever you want.

..... Really? Are you sure about that?

Oh. That was the deal, right? Well, as much as I can do.

They were eager to confirm my intentions, so instead of saying, "Anything you want," I answered with pride.

I'm sure Daichi won't go that far, but that spirit.

(alt: It's about Daichi, so I wouldn't say it so unreasonably, but... but that spirit.) Perhaps she was excited, or perhaps she was a little more pale than usual.

With such a good response, we were a bit nervous about what kind of demands we would receive.

As Akiharu watched with bated breath, wondering what he would be told, Daichi put his hands on his chest and took a few deep breaths.

What I want for that Hino is

Still not satisfied, he blushed slightly, bit his lip and said "— — I want you to call me by my name.

What he said to me in an atmosphere of once-in-a-lifetime confession was a request I had not expected.

Akiharu, who had assumed that the content would be more damaging mentally or to his wallet, was taken aback, blinked repeatedly, and then asked, just to be sure.

Is the right name? There's more.

I'm fine with that. That's what I want.

Daichi's insistence remained unchanged, and his serious eyes remained fixed on us.

While being penetrated by his eyes, Akiharu lightly scratched the scar across his left eyebrow with his fingertip and smiled as if he had just lost his mind.

"Okay, so I'll call you Kaoru from now on, okay?"

"Oh,, oh."

I'm the director, so please call me by my name, Kaoru too, instead of It has nothing to do with betting, so if you don't want to, that's fine."

"No, I don't want to! I'll call you and Akiharu, too."

Daichi turned bright red and turned over when I said this in a rather shy manner.

It seems like it will take a while to get used to the new room, but "We'll be in the same room from the time we move up to second grade until graduation, so we'll get used to it."

"ah u, um"

I was embarrassed to admit that I was almost cringing at the sight of Daichi, who, don't get me wrong, is too cute to be kept as a man.

What is this cuteness that is totally different from Sanke that are supposed to have more feminine faces?

If this is your wake-up call, you might want to spend some time in the mountains during spring break.

As Akiharu tries not to be affected by the strange, itchy feelings, a disturbing air suddenly begins to flow from behind him.

Tomomi's expression was difficult to read, as if she was in front of a modern work of art that was extremely difficult to comment on.

"..... The most important thing to watch out for is Daichi-kun, right?

What are you talking about? Don't tell me you are jealous of a man, Tomomi?

"..... would never be jealous of a man, would they?"

Tomomi's eyes are stale as she responds to Selnia's mocking words.

During the exchange, Daichi's expression remained blank, as if he had been struck by some kind of fever. Feeling marooned in the eye of the typhoon, Akiharu sighs heavily and scratches his head, wondering what to do.

(alt: Even during that exchange, Daichi's expression remained blank, as if he had somehow caught a fever... Akiharu, who felt left behind in the eye of the typhoon, let out a big sigh. I threw up and scratched my head wondering what to do.) I've achieved my initial goal, and apparently, I've been able to repair my relationship with Kaoru, not Daichi.

I will be able to pass the exams and move on to the next level, and I have a good reason to do what I need to do.

..... Well, that's just the beginning.

(alt: "... Well, it's about to start.") As I said, the problem is just beginning.

In less than a week, the third-year students will graduate, and in a month they will become second-year students.

When I decided to enter Hakuryo, I envisioned that I would not only be able to live on my own, but that I would be able to support someone else.

We are still a long way from our goal of

I hope you will work harder and become a student who is recognized by everyone as an obedience student.

If you get to that point, maybe you'll be able to look around a little more and maybe you'll be able to shake back the hand that is extended to you.

(alt: Once I get there... maybe I'll be able to look around a little more than I am now, and I should be able to hold back the hand that's stretched out to me.) It won't be easy, but I'm going as fast as I can.

If I don't, I will feel bad and disappoint the people who like me.

I have to make my best effort to avoid such an awkward situation, since I have the minimum pride as a man. I'll provide you with a lot of services.

"What are you talking about, what are you talking about? You're not the only one who can't get out of the way!

Because it's dangerous! If you don't install it, even just as a formality, you may regret it in the near future.

I don't understand what you mean. I don't understand what you mean! If that's the case, then I, not you, Tomomi, will be the one to do it."

(alt: "I don't understand what you mean, what does it mean! Generally speaking, if that's the case, then it's me, not Tomomi--") "...Name in..Autumn, fine weather..Fufu"

(alt: ".....By name.....Autumn, sunny.....Fufu.....") What is it about all this noise that is completely unsuitable for kindling a quiet resolve? Tomomi, who is somewhat desperate and impatient, is closing in on me, and Selnia, who is pressing me to confront her, looks as if she's going to punch me in the face.

On the other hand, Kaoru's consciousness has wandered off somewhere and there is no sign of her coming back.

However, since they seem to be happy, I think it is better to leave them alone.

The noisiness of the place called "flower garden" is not appropriate for it, and Akiharu cowered his shoulders and laughed a little.

Maybe tomorrow, maybe after sophomore year, maybe even after that.

There must be many things that are fun and difficult, times when you want to cry so badly you want to scream, and times when you are so happy you want to scream.

I am sure that every day will be like this, with no time for boredom.

「まだまだ若輩者だが、今まで見守ってくれてありがとう。
これからも頑張ろうと思う」

大地 薫
Kaoru Daichi



「この私は、お別れは言いませんわよっ!」

セルニア=伊織=フレイムハート
Sernia Iori Flameheart



完結記念
Message from
"Ladies versus Butlers!"
Heroines 008

「またいつか……ね♥」

彩京朋美
Tomomi Saikyo

