

Oh, Hino-kun, wait a minute!

I'm not sure what to say, but I'm sure you'll be able to find a way to get the job done.
(alt: — Hino Akiharu had a strange premonition when he was stopped.) Just as I was about to head back to the café terrace after my service, I was thinking about what to do with the time I had left until dinner.

When I turned around, I saw that the person who had approached me was Oka, an obedience student who was doing the same service as Akiharu, and she had an impish, ambiguous smile on her face.

"I need to talk to you. Can we start now?"

"Huh? I don't mind, but"

"Great! Okay, I'm sorry, but could you please come over here?"

Saying this, Oka starts walking toward the pavilion located a little away from the café terrace. Akiharu tilted his head, but decided to follow along without saying a word.

Let's walk around looking at the backs of our classmates in maids' dresses and try to figure out what is going to happen, but there is too little information.

I don't have a good feeling about it, but that's just a hunch.

While I was wondering what was going to happen, we arrived at the pavilion and Oka said, "Well, well, sit down.

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

(alt: Obediently obeying those words——At that point, Akiharu finally noticed something.) Oka is usually cheerful and open to both men and women, but today she seems a little too cheerful? She talks more than usual, and her eyes move around a lot, making me feel a bit restless.

Moreover, if you look closely, you can see that her face is blushing as well. In addition, the fact that they are not chatting on their way back to the dormitory, but are going out of their way to talk in private in an unpopular place where they can be easily recognized if someone comes along... .. is this it? Is it that? Could it be that? When Akiharu was suddenly feeling frustrated, Oka scratched his thick eyebrows with his finger and said with a dimpled embarrassed smile, "Well, I was thinking that we should have a small talk about this and that, but then I thought that I might put it off for another time, so I'm going to tell you straight out.

"Oh, oh,?"

As Oka spoke quickly with a bouncy voice, Akiharu felt his heart beat wildly.

I knew it was that one.

This happened several times.

Without a doubt, this is a confession. "You know, I've been thinking about you lately, Daichi. Yeah, it was a bridge to confession after all.

No, I'm not expecting you or anything. I thought so, and I am aware that I am far from the type of person who is popular with women.

..... Well, I'd be lying if I said I didn't have a little bit of hope, even a pebble of hope.

But it is true that I expected it.

When Akiharu was in junior high school, there was a guy in the same class with whom he sat near, an "Ultimate" guy who had a great face, was athletic, funny, and even had a good personality.

I was quite good friends with this guy, and the girls asked me to bridge the gap on several occasions.

That's why Oka's situation seemed to have a déjà vu-like ring to it.

Incidentally, my friend from junior high school said briskly, "I like guys more than girls.

I think it's probably a coincidence that he often looked at Akiharu when he was saying that he was going to confess his feelings to her.

I mean, it was definitely a coincidence.

I hope so from the bottom of my heart.

..... I even remembered the chilly feeling I had back then, but that's beside the point.

It was bad enough that he had to remain silent after having to be so courageous, so Akiharu pretended to be a little deliberately surprised and said, "Oh, seriously? Since when?

"Hmmm, since when? I'm not really sure, but I noticed that when I went to, I said to myself, 'Hey, Daichi, do you look better than before? Daichi, do you look better than before? I started to think, 'Hey, Daichi, you're looking better than before.

"....., he's only beautiful because he's always been beautiful, right?"

No, I know that too. But it's not just the face, it's also the fact that she seems less approachable or more friendly than before. Maybe that's why you've become aware of her again?"

"No, I don't want you to ask me."

Oka says so, but it doesn't ring true for me, who see him every day.

Certainly, compared to when Akiharu first came to Hakuryo, his attitude has softened, but he has become 'cool'.

I don't know what to say.

(alt: I don't understand even if you say that.) "Well, you've always had a beautiful face, but lately you've got a certain sexiness about you."

..... I don't know any more.

(alt: I don't understand more.) It seems impossible to understand even after listening to more, so I think I should give up and move on to the main topic.

So, what does Oka want to do? Does he want me to help him confess?

I think it's too early to tell. You need to get to know each other a little better and, preferably, once you know there's some hope"

"You're very passive for a guy like you, aren't you?"

If you don't make it, it will be very awkward. We'll still be sharing the same pot for more than two years.

Uh,, that's, uh, well, that's for sure.

I thought that was unusual for Oka, who is not very fearless, but I take that back.

Hahn, the leader of the women's education department, made a very appropriate decision.

But still, "....."

(alt: 「.....」) Hmm? What, are you complaining?"

I was more surprised by the time difference than dissatisfied. I didn't get the impression that Oka was interested in romantic matters.

She has a refreshing personality and speaks normally with men, and perhaps because she keeps her hair cut short, she does not usually seem so opposite.

That may be why it seemed so strange to me.

In response to Akiharu's words, Oka narrowed his eyes in disgust and said, "That's terrible. I've been in love once or twice before. Well, to be honest, though, I don't think I really like Daichi.

(alt: Akiharu thought it was rude, but Oka narrowed his eyes in disgust at what Akiharu said. To be honest, I don't think I've gotten as far as liking Daichi.") Then which way is it too early for me to confess? Then why are you telling me all this?"

When I asked him again, Oka's expression of dissatisfaction changed, and he smiled, clasped his hands together, and said, "Please. Next time, Daichi and I will...

"Are you willing to try going on a date next Sunday?"

In the blank time when he had finished eating and bathing and had only to finish his assignments and go to bed, Akiharu said so directly to me.

Hahaha, she turned her head to look at us for a moment as if she didn't know what was said and then suddenly jumped back with a quick movement and crouched down against the bed.

"Hey, what are you"?"

..... No, I'm the one who should be asking. What's with that reaction? You're acting like a new grasshopper that's found a hostile organism."

I half-judge, but Daichi seems to have heard no such words, shaking his head repeatedly, "Yes, that was some kind of mistake. I heard you wrong, yes, I heard you wrong."

(alt: I plunged into it, half astonished, but Daichi didn't seem to have heard those words and shook his head several times, saying, "Well, I just heard something wrong... I heard it wrong, yes, I heard it wrong...") Hey? Come back to reality, okay?"

I wondered what Oka would think if he were to see me like this.

I'm sure you won't be disillusioned, but or perhaps, on the contrary, you might make a positive impression.

(alt: I wouldn't go as far as disillusioned with it, but... no, maybe it would make a good impression.) He is usually so cool in class, but to see him so distraught makes me feel close to him.

While waiting for Akiharu to think about this until he could make a decent conversation, he stopped mumbling, took a few deep breaths, and then said, "..... Okay, I've calmed down. Speak again."

Daichi said with a strangely powerful and sharp look in his eyes, and although he didn't seem at all calm, Akiharu said the same line again.

So, are you willing to try going on a date next Sunday?"

"....."

This time, Daichi neither leaps to his feet nor jumps as before, but stares at me silently.

The gaze that seemed to be peering at her pierced into her as if it was groping for her, and she felt sorry if she moved, and as Akiharu froze, she asked, "..... Hino, are you out of your mind?"

The words were direct, direct, and quite harsh.

I don't know how you can ask me out on a date and not just out of the blue like this, no, it doesn't mean it has to be sudden.!

(alt: "I, you want me to go out on a date with you... Moreover, this kind of sudden--no, it doesn't mean you shouldn't rush...!") Moreover, her pale cheeks became more and more flushed, and her speech became quite unintelligible.

Akiharu exhaled, "Oh dear, I'm in such a hurry that I'm afraid I'm going to overheat if I don't do something.

For the time being, since this was not going to work, Akiharu moved closer to Daichi, crouched down, and made eye contact with him.

For some reason, Daichi's shoulders shook so much at that, but he ignored it and said, "Hey, Daichi.

What's?

First, check. "First of all, check. Are you free next Sunday?"

It's, and there's an empty"

I don't know why, but Daichi is very confused and embarrassed.

(alt: For some reason, Daichi is quite confused and embarrassed.) I knew I didn't have a service activity, but maybe I had something else I needed to do.

I am relieved that I was able to clear that issue.

Once that happens, all that remains is to get Daichi to do what you want it to do.

That is the most difficult problem to solve, but it depends on your own skills, and Akiharu was determined to do his best. I'm planning to go skating at with a light heart, not thinking too much about it, so it's fine if you just want to go for fun."

"But, however, you're on a date, and you're not going to be lighthearted about it."

Daichi, who had become overtly reduced, began to talk about such a serious matter.

Moreover, she is clutching her chest so tightly that her clothes seem to have marks on them, and the atmosphere in the room is becoming serious.

When the atmosphere became strange, Akiharu lightly scratched his cheek with his finger and said, "Hey, it's okay to be really lighthearted, okay? Even they don't like it if you take it so seriously."

"Hino, you say so, but, over there?"

After a moment of rolling his eyes as if he had been pinched by a fox, Daichi wrinkled his brows and asked, "What is it that you want me to do with you?

And Akiharu says, "Ah."

He nods and tells the rest of the story he was supposed to tell earlier.

Oka said he wanted to go out with the four of us, plus one other person. So even though it's called a date, it's just to have fun and come back home, and we can just go out on a normal day.

Why are you looking at me like you're ready to make a mistake?"

"..... what, but nothing."

(alt: "..... What, but, nothing.") "No, I'm sorry, I didn't see anything that looked like that!"

(alt: "No, not quite like that--Sorry, I didn't see anything!") When she was confronted with a sharp look, Akiharu instantly held up and backed away.

That's not good. Your mind is so full of simmering emotions that it overflows at the slightest hint of annoyance.! I have no idea why she is in such a state of mind, but I can't do anything to put her in a bad mood, so I move to the corner of the room so as not to irritate her.

(alt: That's not good, your heart is so full of simmering emotions that if something bothers you, even the slightest bit, it will overflow at that moment...! He didn't know why he was in such a state of mind, but he couldn't do anything more to offend him, so Akiharu moved to a corner of the room so as not to irritate him.) Meanwhile, Ochi scratches his head, falls back on the bed and wraps himself in the sheets, and does all the other things he does when he's in the middle of self-loathing: "..... So... .. You want me to skate with Oka,"

"Oh, yeah, I'll go with you, but that's basically how I feel about"

While being scared to death, Akiharu answered, and Daichi, which was still lying face down on the bed, said, "I'll go anywhere I know... .. I'll go anywhere"

(alt: When Akiharu answered, even though he was completely terrified, Daichi, who was still lying face down on the bed, said, "I understand... I'll go anywhere...") It didn't sound like he was planning to go on a date with her.

It's more like someone being taken away by a form of debt.

Even if I had such a feeling, there was no way I could make a reasonable and honest point under the circumstances.

Unable to bear the feeling that it was too much to do the assignment silently or to give up and go to bed, I said, "Well, I'll go tell Oka about it.!"

(alt: I couldn't stand the feeling that it was too difficult to silently do my homework or give up and go to sleep.) Akiharu ran away from the room saying, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

(alt: Saying that, Akiharu ran away from the room.) Although I was able to do what was asked of me, the thought of having to return to my room after some time is quite depressing.

It would have been easier to sleep in the hallway.

Because of the rules, it was not possible for him to stay in Todoroki's room, so Akiharu let out a deep sigh and walked out with his cell phone in hand to report to Oka what was going on.

Although the date was successfully scheduled, I have to admit that it was a bit of a surprise to me that it was a "date" for Akiharu.

I hardly had any sense that I was a "good" person.

The other students are colleagues from the education department whom we see each other all the time, and more importantly, there are a lot of people.

If we were to go out alone, we might be a little nervous, but with four men and four women in the room, the time we have to be silent is likely to be shorter.

Generally speaking, ever since I came to Hakuryo, I've been on dates.

I have never once seen anything that looked like it, and I have never seen anything that had a "B" in its name.

Tomomi and I just hung out on the street, Selnia and I fought all the time, and to top it all off, the other day she was playing a punishment game with a guy named Daichi. It's impossible to expect anything from this situation.

(alt: Tomomi was just hanging out on the town, fighting with Selnia all the time, and what's more, it's been a punishment game, and the opponent is Daichi, a man.) However, as the creator, Oka is "dating.

The meeting was to be held in front of the station in Sunohara.

Well, I understand how Akiharu feels, and I am grateful for that.

It would be difficult to explain if someone saw us meeting in Hakuryo or going out with four other people.

In fact, since it is nominally a date, it's hard to fool them.

Even with, they're slow.

It had been quite some time since he and Ochi had arrived at the bus stop where they were to meet.

While checking your cell phone to make sure it's not ringing, you look at the time and see that it's more than ten minutes past your appointment time.

I did not have the impression that Oka was loose with his time, but if he was going to be late, he should have at least called me.

I'm more concerned about the fact that I couldn't get through to them when I called earlier.

I don't mind waiting, but I am worried that I might be involved in some kind of accident or trouble, so I get a little nervous.

As Akiharu put his cell phone back in his blouson pocket and looked again in the direction Oka-dachi was supposed to come, he heard a heavy, somber voice coming from next door.

"..... Hino, isn't it time for you to go home now?"

No, wait, it's only been a few minutes. If you thought you were on time and missed the bus, probably means you're almost there.

He was so frustrated that I panicked and tried to patch things up, but Daichi said, "If it's, I'll give you five more minutes.

The first time I saw him, he replied, "I'm not a good person.

The chances of Oka arriving in less than five minutes are not that great. Well, if the time limit comes, we can always talk him out of it then.

(alt: The chances of Oka and the others arriving within five minutes aren't that high, but... Well, if the time limit comes, I guess I'll just have to talk to them at that time.) Just when Akiharu was thinking, "I'm not sure I can do this.

(alt: — — At the point when Akiharu thought.) Sorry, hold up!

I saw Oka running toward me, apologizing in a loud voice.

Akiharu was relieved to see her.

The reason for this is that Shikikagami was running right behind Oka.

..... No, well, the fact that Shikikagami is coming is good in itself.

I am one of the girls in the Education Department who gets along well with others, and although it is tiring to be pushed around by a natural, I never get tired of being with her and we have a lot of fun together.

But why is he wearing a maid's outfit in the city on his day off? I'm not sure why he's wearing a maid's uniform in the city on his day off, but I can assure you that this is a very wrong scene.

The proof is in the fact that they have all the eyes in the room.

Akiharu's cheeks tightened and she looked next to him as if asking for help.

Daichi looked up at me with a similar expression and said, "..... Hino.

What's"

"Can I go home to"

"I understand how you feel about, but I can't."

While they were exchanging such pleasantries, Oka and Shikikyo arrived with bubbling breaths.

Oka, dressed in a knit cap, long parka, denim pants, and boots, clapped her hands together as soon as she came in front of Akiharu and said, "I'm sorry. I was so busy getting ready for Sanae that I missed the bus and forgot my cell phone! I made you wait, didn't I?"

"No, it's not a big deal, that's fine, but it's more like..."

"Okay, don't tell everyone. I know what I'm doing.

"If you knew what you were doing, why didn't you let this tragedy happen?"

When I asked him about the situation, Oka's apologetic expression turned into a somewhat tired and bitter smile, and he began to speak in a weak voice that made me wonder where his usual energy had gone.

I was supposed to meet her at my room before she came. I was surprised to see her in this uniform. It was the first time for me to go out with Sanae in winter, so I was looking forward to seeing how she would look like. Well, it was a surprise in a different sense from what I expected.

(alt: "I was supposed to meet you in my room before you came, but... I was surprised when you showed up in this uniform. It was my first time going out with Sanae in the winter, so If you're looking forward to seeing what kind of outfit you'll come with... No, it's a surprise in a different way than I expected.") "Why didn't you dress me at"

While saying this, Akiharu glanced at the Shikikagami.

I am concerned about my slightly disheveled clothes from running, but I don't think that's what I really need to be concerned about.

"Of course, we tried to take action, didn't we? But you know, Sanae doesn't have much in the way of personal clothing, and even if she wanted to borrow someone's clothes, they wouldn't fit her size. I'm not sure if it's a good idea to borrow something from someone else, but I'm sure it's not a good idea to borrow something from someone else.

As if guided by Oka's regretful words, Akiharu looks at Shikikagami's chest.

I did think they were too big for a high schooler, but I wonder if they would be too much trouble if they wore clothes that fit their height.

Since even maids' clothes, which do not show off the lines of their bodies, can appeal to the public to the fullest, blouses and tee shirts are likely to have the destructive power of an anti-tank mine.

One of the reasons for Kida's disappointing slenderness is probably that he is referred to for his height, but it would be human nature not to mention that.

Daichi also has his hand on his chest, but wisely remains silent.

The wrinkles between his eyebrows may indicate that he is still angry about his tardiness.

I gave up in the end and decided to come in uniform, but in the rush I forgot my cell phone and Sanae's wasn't charged and wouldn't turn on. I feel really bad about what I did to you two.

(alt: "In the end, I gave up and decided to come in my uniform, but if I'm so busy, I'll forget my phone, and Sanae's won't turn on because it hasn't been charged... It's really bad for the two of us. I've done this) He apologizes again, but I don't blame him in the slightest.

I can only say that Shiki-Kagami is in such a state of disarray.

What a tremendous involvement.

So Akiharu, while feeling rather sympathetic, says, "I understand the situation, so don't worry about it so much.

"Um, it was me. I'm sorry.!"

(alt: "Um, I'm the cause, I'm sorry...!") Shikikagami was bowing down beside Oka, but I told him, "Don't worry about it.

It's not enough to just say, "I'm sorry, but I can't do that.

(alt: It's not enough just to say) It is very difficult for me to work with maids in their maid's uniforms.

I wonder what I can do, but there is only so much I can do.

So, in order to find the quickest way to get things done, Akiharu took off his blouson and tossed it to Shikikagami.

"Here, put this on. The sleeves will be too loose, but maybe it will stop in front."

I'm sorry, Mr. Hino, but you can't do that! I don't mind if it stays like this.

(alt: "Eh... I feel bad for Hino-san! I don't care if I stay like this...") I am the one who will be in trouble if things continue as they are, so I will simply ignore their opinions.

He said, "Just put it on. I'm wearing a thick coat, so I'll be fine. If it gets really cold, I'll ask you to return it to me without reservation.

I'd like to see a copy of the report at: "..... Yes, I'd like to see a copy of the report at Then I will take you at your word.

(alt: "... Yes. Well then, I'll take your word for it...") Saying this, Shiki-Kagami slowly put her sleeves through her blouson.

Good, good, this will make it much less noticeable.

It is not embarrassing to walk with them.

The reason may be selfish, but it should not be a wrong decision.

As proof, Oka gave me a thumbs-up at a position that Shikikagami could not see.

However, the other main character of the day, Daichi, seems to be in a worse mood than before, so I think we should move on as soon as possible.

I am not that enthusiastic about it, so I might leave if I am not good at it.

When Shikikagami had finished putting on her blouson, Akiharu said, "Well, then, let's go. The skating rink is in the next town, right?

It's only one stop on the train, so it won't take long. When we get there, I'll buy you a juice, tea or coffee as an apology for being late!

Following the lead of Oka, who sensed our intention and started moving, Akiharu and the others entered the station.

The train arrived in less than a minute, and we boarded it, and as luck would have it, there was an entire box seat available.

The next station is less than ten minutes away, but if it is available, I decide to sit down so that a man and a woman are facing each other.

As the train started moving, Oka spoke again to Daichi, who was standing across from him.

Thank you very much for coming today. But I'm so sorry that I was late.

"....., I know what's going on, so that's enough."

(alt: "... I understand the circumstances, so that's enough.") I'm glad to hear you say that. I'm glad you say so. But, Daichi, you usually dress like that, don't you?"

I can understand why Oka would say that.

In his private time, he is usually in a parka or samue, and it is quite rare to see him in any other attire.

By the way, today Daichi was wearing a denim jacket with a fur trim and black cargo pants, which were recommended by Hino and Todoroki, so

What?" Did you buy it with Hino and the others?"

I'm not sure if he has as many clothes as Shikikagami, but I'm not sure. I'm sure he doesn't have as many clothes as Shikikagami does, but he has so many plain, similar things that I feel like it would be a shame if we didn't do something to coordinate them together.

(alt: "Because Daichi has surprisingly few clothes --- No, well, I don't think it's as bad as the Shikikagami. I feel like it would be a waste if I didn't coordinate it.") I'm sure it looks good on you, though. It makes you look cooler and more aggressive than usual, doesn't it?"

What's up? Mr. Daichi, where are you going to fight?"

The "Shikikagami" is as charming as ever, and Akiharu is laughing with a suppressed voice, while glancing at Daichi's expression with a sideways glance.

The somewhat sullen and blank expression on his face is usual, but the tense mood he had been in earlier has vanished.

He may have started to enjoy today's date in his own way.

While immersed in the feeling of a parent bird watching over its young just before they leave the nest, Akiharu said, "I hope things will continue to go well for them.

I think.

Regardless of the outcome, there are not many opportunities to go out with a mix of men and women like this, and I was personally satisfied as long as everyone had a good time.

I guess this is my punishment for thinking warmly of

Akiharu wanted to run away from the reality in front of him so much that he wanted to deny all the thoughts and feelings that he had smilingly had on the train.

It was about 30 minutes before I arrived at the skating rink, bought a ticket, borrowed a pair of shoes and went down to the rink.

And now, Akiharu was alone with Shikikagami.

To be exact, there are dozens of other guests on the square rink, and Ochi and Oka should be skating far away from each other.

Daichi had never skated before, and Shikikagami was not very good at it, so they were divided into pairs and taught one-on-one at, which was okay.

For a while, we had an unspoken rule of noninterference, and the biggest problem was that we couldn't ask for help from the other side.

Um, Mr. Hino? Is something wrong?"

"....., no, nothing."

(alt: "... No, it's nothing...") Since he could not tell the truth to Shikikagami, who asked him anxiously, Akiharu had no choice but to answer her.

Shikikagami probably doesn't realize that he is the cause of the problem.

Because it is a mirror for all seasons.

It's nothing, but I guess I should put on my jacket."

But the exercise makes me feel so hot that that kindness is enough for me."

No, I am not saying this out of the kindness of my heart, but because I sincerely want you to do so.

Nearby, Shikikagami, who was scratching her head without being able to express her true feelings, was back in her maid's outfit, holding onto the handrails that were set up around the perimeter of the skating rink.

It hasn't been that long since I started skiing....., or rather, I keep slipping, falling, and falling on my butt, even though my body would rather be cold from the ice.

Looking at his complexion, he seemed to have a slight burning sensation, so I am sure that if he were to wear a blouson, it might upset him, so I could not speak strongly about it.

Shikikagami, now dressed in a maid's outfit, was attracting a lot of stares from everyone around her.

People would come up to me and say, "Hey, did we have any events today?"

"Is this some kind of campaign?"

The cosplayers?

Isn't that a hobby for the guy you're with?"

"Wow, maybe."

"They look pretty bad, don't they?"

"You're forcing her to do something she's too embarrassed to do.!"

And I heard a voice I didn't want to hear, and I thought, "Yeah, I want to go home now.

What kind of a pervert are you to force her to wear this dress?

It's been quite a while since Shikikagami became a maid, but she still has a monopoly on Link's attention.

Akiharu has a glimpse that the main reason for this is probably the way her skirt falls up every time she falls down.

It's just the same time when other guys fall down as if they were distracted.

I am embarrassed in many ways, so I hope that Akiharu will learn how to ski so that he doesn't fall into the Shikikagami at the earliest opportunity.

Hi, Mr. Hino, let's go.

(alt: "Hi, Mr. Hino, let's go...") "Oh, come on. Next time, you'd better calm down.

Nodding in agreement, Shikikyo lets go of the handrail she had been relying on and stands unsupported on the rink.

I can't see it because the long skirt is in the way, but maybe it's her knees shaking.

It should be a little better than a newborn fawn.

It is true that the blade of a skate is so thin that it can be dangerous to one's balance, but in Shikikagami's case, this was not her first time, and yet, here she was.

To be honest, I don't know how to teach them how to ski properly.

(alt: To be honest, I don't know where and how to teach him to be able to skate properly.) He told himself not to be discouraged and stood right in front of Shikikagami and said, "Look, you can grab my arm or shoulder, so try sliding slowly in that position. Don't be in a hurry, just feel as if you have your weight on your knees.

"Yes slowly to knees"

While murmuring as if to confirm, Shikikagami grabbed my shoulder.

..... And he also grabbed my arm.

She was gripped by his right shoulder and left arm as if he would never let go, and Akiharu became impatient.

It's hard to move around, and it's too close, too close to my face and chest.! Although Shikikagami's face is down, we cannot see her expression from Akiharu, but we can see that she is trying hard to skate by looking down at her feet.

(alt: It's hard to move, and on top of that, it's too close to my face and chest...! Akiharu couldn't make out the expression of Shikikagami, who was looking down, but he could still see that he was trying hard to look at his feet and try to slide.) That is why Akiharu cannot say anything.

I'm just saying, how can a teacher, a person who is supposed to be teaching, ever say something like, "I can smell the sweet, fluffy smell of your hair swinging in front of my eyes," or "I've fallen so many times that my maid's clothes are a little wet from falling down so many times that they stick to my chest.



..... No, you can't say that in a normal way, regardless of whether you play the role of a teacher or not.

No, my thinking is completely deranged.

Akiharu tried his best to remain calm and said, "..... calm down, okay? Unlike walking, if you push your toes forward while putting weight on your knees, you should be able to slide forward naturally, okay?"

I know, I know, but it's just so different from what I'm used to.

(alt: "Wow, I know, but it's too different from what I usually do... Whew!?") No, you fall down all the time," Akiharu says in his mind, and Shikikagami screams at the same time.

"Na Oh!"

A moment later, Shiki's right shoulder and left arm are yanked downwards with a furious force.

Akiharu tried to hold on, but soon realized, "Oh, I can't do this.

I realized that I had to do something.

I was pulled out by surprise, but I was wearing skates with a narrow blade, which was too much for me.

In this situation, it is better to intentionally take a fall that can be covered than to endure an unpredictable fall if you are not good at it.

Although the bottom is hard ice, it is much better than concrete because it is less prone to scratches and abrasions.

With determination, Akiharu collapsed in a crippled state, still held by Shikikagami.

The result is that the knee hurts more than expected, and you almost scream.

"Are you okay, Shikikagami?"

"Ugh sorry, it's my fault"

Shikikagami, who had fallen in a failed attempt to pass through the inseam, apologized with tears in her eyes.

Although she wanted to genuinely ask him how he could turn in such an acrobatic and varied way, Akiharu removed his body from the mirror and asked the most important question of all.

No, it's fine. But are you hurt?

Uh, yes,, I don't think so.

"Oh, well,, that's okay."

I was worried because of his rather spectacular fall, but I was glad he was so sturdy.

..... Well, in the case of the Shikikagami sisters, the problem is that they are so screwed up that they can't seem to survive unless they are sturdy.

Anyway, as long as you don't get hurt, it doesn't matter how many times you fall.

Just like on a bicycle, you have to keep failing until you get the hang of it, so you have to try again.

The important thing is not to give up and not to be discouraged," Akiharu told himself rather than Shikikagami, and carefully stood up.

First, I stood up, grabbed the handrail, and in a perfect position, held out my hand to Shikikagami.

"Quickly,, grab hold of it."

Yes. I'm sorry, sir, over and over again.

(alt: "Yes. I'm sorry, over and over again.") Shikikagami seemed to have become accustomed to being woken up by now, and took my hand while lightly lowering her head, and staggered to her feet.

In the beginning, even this did not go well and he fell down again, and Akiharu was also involved, resulting in the situation, so we can see that he has matured well.

..... You have to think so to keep going, don't you?

Well, just holding hands like this is a bit of a perk, and when I do get involved, I have the feeling that the men of the world will glare at me with envy for the experience, which is so much softer than it hurts.

Seeing that the ditzzy girl in the familiar maid's outfit stood up, though not quite firmly, Akiharu let go of her hand.

As I was planning my next plan, I suddenly heard cheers on the skating rink.

"..... What is it?"

Well, what is it?

Shiki and Kagami looked at each other, and Akiharu frowned.

This was not like when the bumbling maid fell down in front of me; it was an outward shout of praise.

It is a mixture of surprise and excitement, such as someone hitting a home run or getting a perfect score on a test.

While I was wondering what had happened, Shikikagami opened her mouth as if she had noticed something.

And then, her cheeks turning rosy red, she said, "Hino-san, look!

What is that?

The voice that was about to ask, "What is it?" was pulled back into his throat when he saw the direction Shikikagami was pointing in.

The reason, of course, is "that."

I was able to understand the true identity of the "Mere Old Man".

Almost in the center of the skating rink.

In the empty space, there was only one shadow dashing about.

It was, without a doubt, Akiharu's roommate, "....., you said it was your first time skating in the big city today, didn't you? Wasn't this your first time skating today?"

"Yes,, that's what I heard too, but"

I understand how Shikikagami feels when she answers confidently.

Because that guy on the ground is not only sliding but also jumping.

Two and a half revolutions in the air, landing backwards as if nothing had happened, and then a sharp turn. No matter how you look at it, it's the move of a professional or aspiring professional.

(alt: He made two and a half turns in the air, landed facing backwards as if nothing had happened, and even made a sharp turn... No matter how you look at it, it's the movement of a human aiming to be a professional.) Who would have believed that it had been less than an hour since they started skating? Even Akiharu, who knows that Daichi would never tell such a meaningless lie, was so skeptical, as he performed one technique after another in such a brilliant manner, "Good, good, good, Daichi, you're in great shape! Next time, let's try two jumps in a row!

..... The person who is fueling the fire is today's date.

He is no longer a leader, but an agitator.

It's great to see him happily giving instructions, though.

I don't know if it's just my imagination or not, but - is that guy in a bad mood? He is skating and spinning at a very high speed, and his emotions are difficult to express in his facial expressions.

However, since we have been living and eating in the same room since we transferred, I can somehow understand the slight differences that other students in the Education Department may not be able to see.

And, although I have no proof of this, I sometimes felt Daichi's eyes were looking toward me. And with a glaring look.

"Did I do something?"

From Oka's appearance, it seems that the other side was doing reasonably well, but why the stares?

I have no idea why.

Then there is the theory that the whole thing is just a misunderstanding. What in the world is the correct answer?

Tilting one's head and pondering one's roommate's feelings does not provide an answer. I think I should ask for an opinion from a different angle on this, and I looked at Shikikagami next to me and swallowed the words I was going to ask him.
..... is awesome!"

For some reason, Akiharu had a bad premonition about Shikikagami's words with a twinkle in her eye.

By all accounts, what Daichi is doing is amazing, even more so when you know that she is a beginner skater. Why does this apprentice maid have eyes filled with such enthusiasm?

I wish I could skate like that! Jumping and spinning like a flying squirrel running in the field!

Is that a compliment?

I expected to see expressions like butterflies or fairies, but instead I found small animals. It's cute and attractive, but it's created an image of flying, which has nothing to do with ice and is too subtle a compliment.

However, the comment that Akiharu really wanted to butt in came even later.

If Daichi, who was on the same starting line, can ski like that already, I'm sure I can do it too if I work hard All I lack is courage. If I put my mind to it, I might be able to see something!

(alt: "Daichi, who was on the same starting line as me, is already skating like that, so if I do my best, I'll be able to do a little more...I'm sure what I lack is courage.) No, wait! You and Daichi are both beginners, but they have totally different foundations! Or rather, being inspired by such a versatile and miraculous guy who can do anything..."

My sister says, "If you give up, your chances are zero! I may not be able to do great things like Daichi-san, but I think I can manage to a certain extent!"

When he said such a heartbreaking line, Akiharu felt like crying.

Of course, I'm not saying that I'm impressed, but rather that I'm involved.

If you just try to walk or slide and have a big and unexpected fall, what will happen if you take the plunge? No, my imagination can't keep up.

But I can feel the sense of tragedy intensely.! Akiharu quickly took Shikikagami's hand and tried to persuade her, "Wait a minute!"

(alt: But I can feel a strong premonition of disaster...! Akiharu immediately took Shikikagami's hand and tried to persuade her, saying, "Wait a second.") Shikikagami, Sanae, here I go!

Before I could finish telling her to stop, I heard such a voice - and the next moment, Akiharu's vision spun around as if she were doing a somersault, and she said, "Geez!

"Ya?

A sharp pain hits the back of the head, and the spot where he hit immediately becomes hot. I almost cried because it was so hot and painful, even though it must have been chilled on the ice.

Or rather, how does one fall and how does one get caught in a situation that almost half-turns the opponent holding one's hand?

And why did Shikikagami, who should have fallen down as well, settle for an adorable scream? It's too much of a mystery, but I'm in too much pain to try to figure it out right now.

While rubbing the back of his head, which is numb and aching, Akiharu looks around while lying on his back on the link to make sure that Shikikagami is okay.

Naturally, the guests around me were paying attention to me, but I couldn't find Shikikagami's figure.

I lifted my head a little to look under my feet, but I still couldn't find it.

I was half-seriously wondering if he had just flown off somewhere, when he said, "Hino-san, are you all right?

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

(alt: Hearing such a voice from behind—Ah, so Akiharu understood.) In other words, Shikikagami was behind me.

Then you should not be able to see it.

Yeah, I'm convinced.

..... And even if you can't see it, you know it.

The reason why Shikikagami's voice, which sounded so worried, turned out to be a familiar scream at the end.

He must have tried to get up first and slipped again in the spur of the moment.

I have confidence in this.

I'd be willing to bet on it.

Because the body of the Shikikagami is approaching you in your field of vision, as if it were falling.

I was left with the impression that it was probably the same feeling as being subjected to a diving body press, as if I were someone else.

Akiharu was crushed by the soft mass and had to hit the back of his head on the ice again.

Hey, that was fun!

I had a great time too! And I can walk again!"

"....., yeah, that's right."

(alt: "... Oh, that's right...") I guess it wasn't too bad."

They left the skating rink where they had spent nearly four full hours.

My body aches here and there, and I'm getting very tired, but I'm not going to say anything about it.

A normal date would have ended with dinner at, but since I live in a dormitory, it was obvious that I would have to return to the dormitory for dinner.

It was not initiated by anyone, but Oka, the founder, said, "What's for dinner today?"

I'm not sure what he's saying.

(alt: What are you saying?) As Akiharu wants to return to the dormitory as soon as possible to take a relaxing bath and heal his body, he is glad that the date will not be prolonged.

At the same time, however, I wonder if we can continue to do so.

I thought that after being alone for so long, things might be getting a little interesting, but when the four of us joined forces to play together, there was no sign of that.

Daichi and Oka had little more than the usual conversation.

The first thing to do is to say, "Don't be so gung-ho when you go on a date."

I don't know what to make of this, but it's a bit of a stretch.

(alt: Although the intention is... as expected, what is this?) Can't we at least talk about something a little more in-depth, even if it doesn't get too sexy? While I realize that I am meddling, I want to do something about it.

As the leader of the girls, Oka has helped me a lot, and when it comes to Daichi, he says, "I hope she will be happy.

I felt like I wanted to ask myself, "Which relative's father are you?"

However, all that remained was to return to Hakuryo.

Even if we wanted to take a side trip, I don't think it would be much different if the four of us were together.

While appropriately listening to the conversations of the other three, Akiharu wondered what was going on.

I arrived at the station with no bright idea in my head, and when I saw the next scheduled departure on the electronic display board, I thought, "Oh no, the train is coming! We have to hurry!"

Oka was right to be in a panic, and a train was expected to arrive in a minute.

..... or rather, the sound of a train entering the platform could be heard.

Even if you miss the train, the next one will be here in about ten minutes, but Oka's idea is to "relax and wait.

There seemed to be no such thing, and I immediately dashed for the home.

Then he turned to me and said, "Hurry up! We'll be there in time, we'll be there in plenty of time!"

Ha, yes! You're going to be fine, right?

If Shikikagami doesn't fall, we should be able to make it.

If there is room, it is probably only in the big city, but it should be no more than barely enough to get caught in a door.

Since Oka and Shikikagami had already gone ahead, Akiharu had no choice but to continue.

Soon after, I saw Daichi overtaking me and heading up the stairs to the platform.

He is still too physically fit.

With legs at a level that would make you seriously consider whether or not he could win all of the Olympic sprinting events, Daichi easily disappears to the home field.

When Akiharu, who was running in last place, finished climbing the stairs and stepped out onto the platform, he was already on the train that had arrived and the bell had started ringing to announce the departure of the train.

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

(alt: Even though he thought he would make it in time, Akiharu tried to speed up a little at the sound of his impatience.) Wait!

For the umpteenth time today, Shikikagami slipped in front of Akiharu's eyes with a scream. I'd like to see and...

He almost kicks the fallen Shikikagami on his route, and somehow manages to avoid it by jumping to the side in a panic.

It almost hit me in the shoulder, but I managed to get away safely.

Akiharu was relieved to hear this and asked Shikikagami, who was sitting down, "Hey, are you okay? Are you hurt?"

Just as I was about to ask him if he had any, the bell that had been shaking my eardrums stopped ringing.

..... Yes, it has stopped ringing.

Then, of course, the next step is "pshaw".

The sound of the air escaping from the door was heard, and when Akiharu looked toward the train with his head still in the posture of holding out his hand to Shikikagami, he saw Oka and Daichi standing side by side with their mouths half open, behind the glass of the closed door.

The train began to move slowly and gradually increased its speed until it was completely out of sight. — After some time, Akiharu looked again at the Shikikagami.

(alt: Just like that, the train began to move slowly, gradually picking up speed.) Perhaps still stunned from her fall, Shikikagami put her hand over her mouth and said, "Hino-san, what should I do? I made a terrible mistake again.!"

Akiharu taps the maid-clad classmate on the shoulder as she exaggeratedly expresses her remorse.

It's not as big a deal as missing the train, and you don't need to worry about it.

..... or rather, "Well done, Shikikagami."

"..... ふ あ?"

While Shikikagami seemed to have no idea why she was being praised, Akiharu's mouth was slightly agape.

It was an unexpected happening, but the result was Happily Happened.

Since the two of us were now alone with no one in the way, I was grateful for Shikikagami's screw-up this time around.

After getting on the next train, Akiharu and his friends looked for the Grandparents who might be waiting for them at the station., but they did not find them.

(alt: Akiharu and the others, who got on the next train, looked for Daichi and the others who might be waiting at the station... but they weren't there.) I am sure this is the result of Oka's urging them to take advantage of the opportunity and move on.

I wonder what kind of conversation they had between the two of them..." With a happy feeling, Akiharu returns to Hakuryo and opens the door to his room in the dormitory, half thrilled and half excited.

Daichi, are you back yet?

I tried talking to her, but she did not respond.

While wondering whether she had gone to the bathroom first or was still with Oka, Akiharu entered her room to check on her roommate's whereabouts and found her at

We found Daichi hiding on the bed, with a futon bulging out of the bedding.

I can't see his face, but I'm sure it's him.

(alt: I can't see his face, but it must be him.) But why is it like a tortoise shut up in its shell?

This is usually something you want to do when you have something that makes you want to close your mind, or when you've made a big mistake, or something like that, right? At least, that's what I would do when I'm embarrassed.

I can't help but wonder if Oka might have confessed to her on the way home and she turned him down and went to

I'm just guessing, but if that's the case, What am I gonna do, huh?

The Shikikagami Good Job!

But he had no idea how far Oka would go. Akiharu, suddenly feeling restless and unsettled from his earlier upbeat mood, approached Daichi's bed and said, "Daichi? Did Oka say something to you?"

I fearfully shook the rolled-up futon with my hand, and asked her, "What the hell is that?"

"Oh"

When the futon was thrown away and Daichi appeared, Akiharu's heart almost stopped.

In addition, the big guy came out with a red face like he had been in a sauna for a long time, and he couldn't say anything while his mouth was moving. Wow, this is more than just a joke, this is.

(alt: On top of that, when Daichi came out, his face turned bright red, as if he had been in a sauna for a long time. Uh, this is.) Just as Akiharu was wondering if something really terrible had happened in connection with the confession, Daichi got off the bed with a slow and deliberate movement.

Then, without looking at me, he says, "....., I'm going to leave the room for a bit.

(alt: Then, without looking at me, I said, "...Leave the room for a while...") He says this in a faint voice, and walks out with a jerky movement that is not typical of a large land.

Surprise, worry, interest, and various other emotions were all mixed up in Akiharu's mind, and he didn't know what to say to her, "..... Yu, what's for dinner?"

Daichi didn't even look back at this stupid question, "I don't need"

With that simple answer, he walked out of the room.

For a moment, Akiharu stared at the door in a daze and then shifted his gaze to the bed where Daichi had been wrapped up earlier.

I remember the image of my roommate who had gone away to the messy futon, and I think to myself, "..... what happened to what happened to what happened to...? What happened to ?

In a room with no one but yourself, there is naturally no one who can answer your question.

Akiharu could do nothing but stand there in agony.

T: In the first place.

Kaoru was not at all keen on the idea of a double date.

That's why we hardly speak to each other when we are waiting for someone or on the train to the skating rink.

He is not a good talker by nature, and if he tries to make things up as he goes along, he may not be able to hide his bad mood, and he may come out sounding like an idiot.

Oka asks a question about Kaoru's attire, and I minimize my answer to a few words and turn around to listen to Hino's supplementary conversation.

I'm not sure if it's a good idea, but it's a good idea. I thought about making it a little more mature, but I'm glad I went with this one.

(alt: "--Even so, when you look at it like this, that outfit really suits Daichi.) "..... Right?"

Hino compliments me in a light tone of voice, but I respond without hesitation.

I was told something similar when I tried on the dress, and it didn't make me happy.

I just think it was a good choice.

..... or I will seriously kick you in the shins if you say it doesn't suit you now.

I bought it because Hino praised it so much as a good fit, and that's as much as I deserved.

I'd rather have more praise than that. Hey, Daichi, you want to go with me sometime?"

I'll think of something.

When she was deep in thought, Oka called out to her, and Kaoru, drinking her surprise in, managed to keep her composure and returned the call.

It's probably okay, and I'm sure they don't realize how little I've been listening.

(alt: It's probably fine, it shouldn't be found out that you didn't hear most of the story.) In that sense, I'm safe, but the question is: What was I thinking?

"More praise is always appreciated."

It is insane to think that you would hold such a grudging opinion about your best friend.

I've had so many emotional upheavals from the date to today, it's like I'm going a little crazy.

This is not good.

A date is, to Kaoru, no different than hanging out with a friend of the same sex, but she may have been a little nervous because she had no experience hanging out with a female friend to begin with.

If we are not more vigilant, we may end up with a mess.

I had to go out with Hino because of her involvement, and there was no way I could let him find out that I was a woman.

But I am not a fan of this.

There is one thing I just can't ignore.

It was Hino, who was having a conversation beside Kaoru, who asked, "Mr. Hino, Mr. Hino, what is that building? It looks like a tower.

It's a landfill, right? I heard they have heated pools that use waste heat. There's a great heated pool at Hakurei Ling, you know.

"Oh, is that so?"

Sanae, you are so excited like a child. Oh, by the way, isn't it rare to take a train itself?

Yes. And since we're all going out today, it's a double celebration!

I don't know how rare and happy are connected, but at least Kaoru can't be in a happy mood.

(alt: I don't know how the unusual and the auspicious are connected, but at least Kaoru can't be in a happy mood.) Shikikagami, looking outside with a happy expression on her face, was wearing Hino's blouson, even though it was meant to hide her maid's outfit.

The look of joy on Kaoru's face when she received the loan earlier is still etched in her mind.

It's a double date. Yes, a double date.

Dating" in

The "one" is the "one" is the "one" is the "one" is the "one".

That would mean that Hino and Shikikagami are also dating.! For some reason, that makes me angry.

(alt: Hino and Shikikagami are also dating...! For some reason, that makes me very angry.) I don't know why, but seeing Hino's happy face makes me feel a mixture of frustration and desolation.

(alt: I don't know why, but seeing Hino's happy face made me feel a mixture of frustration and loneliness.) I feel as if I am going out with my friends normally, except that I have to be careful not to reveal the secret, but Hino and his friends may be different.

I want to go home, but I don't want to be bad for Oka and I don't want to feel like I'm running away for some reason.

Not knowing how to spend this date, Kaoru secretly sighs.

I'm going to start with something simple.

"....., please."

(alt: "..... ask") Pushed by the energetic Oka, Kaoru slowly stood up.

Since it was my first time to skate and Oka was going to teach me the basics, I had to follow his instruction for now.

Although my first pair of skate shoes felt extremely stiff and cramped, they were securely fastened to my ankles, so I had no problem with only a thin blade to support me.

They tread lightly on the ice to get a feel for it, then move on to the ice rink.

I can already walk normally. You're the best.

It's no big deal.

It wasn't that she was being modest, but for Kaoru, it really wasn't a big deal.

After years of training by my grandfather, who would have had me run in the mountains in single clogs with different lengths of teeth on each side, a short blade of a skate would not have thrown me off balance.

Even so, Oka seems to think it's a great thing, and he claps his hands in praise.

"Yeah, yeah, I'm sure you'll be able to skate right away, but then you won't have much time for close, hands-on lessons, will you?"

..... I'm sorry, but I don't understand what Oka is talking about.

(alt: "... I'm sorry, but I can't understand what Oka is saying.") "Hmmm... .., to be more specific and easier to understand, it's like... .., oh, that feeling!"

(alt: "Hmm... To put it in an easy-to-understand and concrete way... Oh, that's how it feels!") When I looked in the direction Oka pointed, I saw Hino and Shikikagami, who had just parted ways, on the opposite side of the rink.

Although they are about 20 meters away from each other, Kaoru has no problem understanding their expressions.

Shikikagami, looking anxious, was holding Hino's right arm.

I wanted to see you like that, but it was a dream that never came true. It was a dream that didn't come true.

There was something she really needed to confirm before she could speak comfortably, and she managed to utter the question with lips that were almost trembling.

"Is doing that because can't skate?"

I think so. Sanae is very motivated, but she does not have good motor skills, so she may be more anxious than others when she is not sure of her footing. When I skated for the first time, I was like that, clinging to my father.

(alt: "I think so. Sanae is very motivated, but her motor nerves aren't the best, so she might be more anxious than anyone else if her feet are unsteady. When I first started skating, I felt the same way. So I was clinging to my father.") "..... so and so."

(alt: "..... Really") But I think I'd probably fall if you held on to me. I'm not that good a skater."

Oka laughs happily as he says this.

Kaoru, however, is in no mood to laugh.

If it had been just the two of you with Hino,, or even if it had been a man-woman split, you would have found yourself in Shikikagami's current position.! I don't really want to be like that.

(alt: If this had happened to me and Hino alone... if it wasn't for that, but if it was a combination of men and women, then I would have ended up in the current position of the Mirror of the Seasons...!I don't think I want to do something like that.) I do not envy Shikikagami, nor do I have any desire to replace him.

There is no such thing.

I'm still not very good with men, and if it were Hino, I'd be okay with a little hand-holding, but that kind of hugging is not right, my focus is going crazy.

No, I mean, I wouldn't have caused so much trouble, but I would have been able to teach them.

Hino would have been better off with me! "Wow, Sanae is holding Hino's arms so tightly, no, it's not like she's holding him, it's more like she's holding him between her arms. It's impossible to pinch or something like that.

It is absolutely, physically impossible.

Kaoru walks out of the house feeling embarrassed, having been severely damaged by Oka's casual, cold words.

Unlike ordinary shoes, there is a hard blade further down on the sole, which makes it uncomfortable to walk as usual.

However, I was able to get a feel for it right away, so when I took my third step, I was able to ski smoothly and without any problems.

When I looked at Oka to make sure he was okay, he rolled his eyes and clapped his hands, saying, "Wow. I almost didn't teach him anything, and now he can skate normally. Daichi, is this really your first time skating?"

"This is my first time, but I've had similar experiences."

"Hey,, you said you used to ski.

Oka nodded his head in agreement, but he had no similar experience with skiing.

It was a time when I was practicing the art of crossing the surface of a pond while floating with a device called a water spider strapped to my feet.

Compared to that, skiing on ice is much easier and more flexible.

I think anyone can skate this easily, even if they don't skate it themselves.

In fact, even children as young as elementary school age were skating on the rink.

However, since there is still a fundamental question, let's ask Oka.

By the way, when you say 'skate and play,' what do you mean? Are we competing against each other for speed?"

When asked what I do with, I may not be able to answer. It's not safe to go too fast on a square link like this one with so many people."

Then what the hell is?"

Looking around, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves in their own way.

However, they don't seem to be doing anything special, just slipping and sliding, falling down once in a while, and that alone seems to make them happy.

Kaoru is not sure how to feel about this, and is at a loss as to what to do next.

(alt: Kaoru doesn't quite understand that feeling, and is at a loss as to what to do after this.)
Unexpectedly, Oka seemed a bit troubled by the question but immediately brightened up.

He took my hand with a very nice smile and said, "Except for speed skating, you have to compete by spinning and dancing! They do things like triple and a half jumps in the air."

Three and a half revolutions. Vertical?

"No, there's no way that's true. It's just spinning on its side.

I was relieved to hear that.

It is impossible to turn three and a half times vertically in these shoes.

And if you do too many half-turns, you'll fall on your head and have to land on your hands, which is a big problem.

I think I can do at least two turns if I get used to it, but it's not good to turn vertically because it's dangerous to point the blade of the skating shoes at other people.

Unlike in the mountains, you have to be careful in a crowded place.

While Kaoru was trying to be safe by herself, Oka, who for some reason suddenly looked very enthusiastic, raised his thumb toward her and said, "Okay, let's train then! I'll make you a fairy on the ice for you!

I'll do my best."

I don't know about you, but I'm very enthusiastic, and I'm not averse to training, so Kaoru nodded her head slightly.

(alt: I don't really understand, but he's got a great spirit, and he doesn't dislike special training, so Kaoru nodded slightly.) And "Fairies"

The sound of "I'm a little bit good.

I know I am unequal to the task, but I long to be a part of it.

Appearance aside, if you're good at acting, you're a "fairy."

If you can earn the title of "The Greatest of All Time," then you should go for it.

..... If you glance to the side and look at the other side of the link, you will see the maid's skirt fluttering just where Shikikagami fell.

Then, Hino, with a look of helplessness on his face, extends his hand.

Hino was completely focused on his date with Shikikagami, and he decided to show her what he saw.

I am sure they will be surprised, and perhaps they will even compliment me on my work.

..... Let's do it."

I don't know about that, but Daichi seems to be really into it. I'll teach you more and more!

(alt: "I don't really understand, but Daichi-kun is in high spirits, isn't he?) Oh. Set an example.

Oh, sorry. I can't do it myself, so I can't give you an example or anything like that. I can only give you a rough idea of what it's like.

Kaoru felt a slight headache at Oka's smiling, easy-going response, but she was still able to say, "I don't care if that's the case. I'll give it a try anyway.

Once I've made up my mind, I'm going to try as hard as I can," he says, "so I'm going to be proactive.

Perhaps sensing his intention, Oka nodded vigorously and said, "Okay, let's start by sliding backwards! If you can't do that, you can't jump!

"Okay, I'll try."

Watch and stay, Hino," I muttered in my heart.

Under Oka's guidance, Kaoru began to seriously practice skating.

..... should be

(alt: "..... Is this supposed to.....") "Yeah? What's wrong?"

"....., no, nothing."

(alt: "... No, nothing.") It's not nothing at all, but there's no way she can honestly reveal her feelings, so Kaoru answers with a clear and collected expression.

With the physical ability and concentration cultivated through training, I managed to learn some figure skating moves even with Oka's proper guidance.

As a result of his demonstration, Oka and many of the other guests applauded him, but Hino was barely able to look at him.

On top of that, they were even flirting with Shikikagami.

I didn't ask Hino to look at it, and I know that Hino has no obligation to look at it, but still makes me sick.

I know it's my own fault, but I can't get it out of my head.

On top of that, I could not keep up with the changing situation.

..... Really, I'm going to teach Oka?"

Oka's words, which were meant to imply that he had just been in the opposite position, were met with a cheerful smile and a "Yes, I'm looking forward to working with you," he said. You've become so much better than me in such a short time, I'm sure you'll be able to get the hang of it.

(alt: Until just a little while ago, they were in the opposite position, but Oka said with a blank smile, "Yeah, can you please help me? Daichi-kun, who has become much better than me in a short time." I'm sure you've got the knack for improving yourself.") But that's not the same as teaching others.

(alt: "But that and teaching others...") "Too..." Hah! I don't know if you know what you're doing, but watching you skate is a good reference for me. Besides, you won't be any worse than you are now. Right?

The positive response immediately made me feel ashamed of my hesitation.

I think it's not good.

This is not the time to be puzzled by the reversal of positions.

Since I am now in charge of instructing Oka, I should return the various lessons he has given me.

Reflecting on this, Kaoru slowly slides back to face Oka again, "So, what exactly do you want me to teach him?"

I'd like to know how to skate fast, but I'm afraid I'll get hurt here, so I'll leave that for another time..... I'd like to know how to stop well, too.

Can't you stop at?"

It's not that I'm completely useless, but I'm not very good at it. I'm more sure of stopping by intentionally bumping into a wall or grabbing a handrail, so I haven't practiced much."

When Oka says this, a beaming smile appears with a dimple on his face.

Kaoru also remembers learning how to ski from her, but she does not remember being taught how to stop.

In other words, it was not a matter of necessity, but of lack of confidence.

It makes sense, but what was I doing having someone like teach me how to turn and jump? While feeling a bit delicate, Kaoru exhaled a breath and let it go, "..... I think the trick to stop is to be bold. It can be a little scary to go sideways with your edges together, but as long as you can shift your weight, you'll be fine."

"Well, I know in theory, but"

If you are scared, your center of gravity will not stay behind you, and you will fall easily. It's dangerous to fall on your back, so it's better to be prepared to fall on your buttocks.

..... It's a bit of a mystery to me why I'm explaining all this to you as a beginner, but I know how to use my body well enough to understand what to do and how to do it well.

The only thing that remains is whether or not Oka can do what he says he will do.

Kaoru says, "Watch me."

He chose the side with the fewest people and lightly accelerated. When he reached a good speed, he dropped the edge and applied the brakes.

(alt: Saying that, I chose the one with the fewest people and made a light run-up... When I picked up speed, I knocked over the edge and applied the brakes.) After a few dozen centimeters through the rink ice, the momentum stops, and you are almost forced by inertia to raise your body from its forward leaning posture.

If the ice is more slippery or, conversely, not at all slippery, it will take some adjustment, but at this point it should not be too difficult to stop.

..... This is what it looks like. It should be easy."

"Well, they made it look super easy."

When she looks back, she sees Oka smiling slightly and smiling bitterly, and Kaoru is a little troubled.

Perhaps my current performance was not a model for others to follow.

When I was going along with Hino's training, he asked me to teach him how to do it well.

I am often told that I am not suited to teach because I often cannot convey what I want to say.

However, even if we try to give a concrete explanation, it is difficult to put it into words because our bodies understand what to do, but our brains do not think deeply about it.

After much consideration, Kaoru came to the conclusion, "....., just give it a try."

I am sorry for Oka, but I could not come up with anything other than to have him repeat the process over and over again through trial and error.

If I could get at least a few days of practice, I might be able to explain things in a way that others could understand, but with less than an hour's experience, it's just not possible.

"Please make it feel like you're sliding toward me and stopping in front of me."

"Hmmm..... sounds good, but I think you're going to miss and run into it, don't you?"

Don't worry about me. I'll help you not to fall down.

Although the footing is unstable, I have already become quite accustomed to it.

If they come at an unexpected time, it is one thing, but if they hit you with a body that you know is coming, you won't fall down.

Kaoru lightly tapped her chest as if to appeal that she was okay, and Oka nodded his head and tightened his expression, as if he too had made up his mind.

Okay, then. Let's go!

(alt: "That's it... let's go!") She slides toward Kaoru without hesitation, as if she had just been through an intense obedience class.

With a clean, smooth slide, the distance of more than a dozen meters quickly closed
"Good sizzling".

Just before the danger zone, Oka's brakes kicked in with a booming voice.

From Kaoru's point of view, it is not bad.

Not bad, but the center of gravity is still a little forward.

So, as a result, "....."?

With a strange scream, Oka slumped forward as if on his knees.

He was flapping his arms in an attempt to stay in place, but there was no way he would be able to do anything about it.

Kaoru, thinking that she should be the one to help, slides her body in front of Oka and catches him squarely, taking care not to get hit by his erratically moving arms.

Oka is a little taller than him, which is a little frustrating, so he almost holds her in his arms and says, "Oh, that was scary. Thank you, Daichi-kun.

(alt: Unfortunately, Oka was a little taller than Oka, so I almost hugged him-- "Ah, I was scared... Thank you, Daichi-kun-- Is that you, Daichi-kun?") "....."

(alt: 「.....」) Kaoru is unable to answer Oka's curious call.

There are more important issues at hand.

Oka's chest was pressed against something.

I'm sure you thought you were one of us, but I have a real feeling?

Kaoru's breath catches in her throat as she focuses her attention on the area of her breasts that are touching each other.

I was wearing at least three layers of clothing, including a jacket, and a thick denim jacket, so it was hard to tell what I was wearing.

It is also not impossible that the person may have been wearing a gyro under his or her clothes, and the sensation may have been a result of that.

Yes, not without! So, make no mistake about it, if you move away from the close contact so that Oka's body is back on its feet, you'll lose that soft, slightly-soft, pre-frozen gel feeling.

..... It was unmistakably different from the iron filings and crushed fabrics of a chiropractor, and definitely more raw and vivid in feel.

There was such a clear difference that I couldn't use the excuse that I was wearing a bleached shirt or that I was wearing thicker clothes than they were, and I had to ask, "..... Um, Daichi? Did I maybe bump you or hurt you?"

"..... didn't hit me anywhere."

(alt: ".....I didn't hit anywhere.") However, my heart aches.

It hurts like hell.

Since Oka is a woman who does not seem very feminine on a daily basis, this was quite a shock.

As Kaoru was overcome with a sense of despair, Oka slid backward with a shy smile on his face and said, "I guess one shot won't work after all. I'm sorry to trouble you, Daichi, but is it okay if I try a few times?"

..... that's fine, but"

It is quite depressing to be reminded of the difference in strength every time we fail.

While not as overwhelming as Shikikagami, it is in the same "low-volume group.

The damage was rather great, as I thought it would be.

Whether Oka would be able to stop as soon as possible, or whether she would be able to lose her own life as a result of the mental damage she'd sustained, was a very serious and unfortunate question for Kaoru.



◇ "Well, this was unexpected. Sanae's naturalness exploded like that.
"....."

(alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) (alt: 「.....」) Kaoru nodded her head in agreement to Oka's words.

Indeed, it was a turn of events that we had not expected.

Shikikagami fell down, and Hino was concerned and tried to help her up. As a result, they both missed the train.

(alt: Shikikagami fell over, and Hino was worried about it and tried to get it up... As a result, the two of them missed the train.) Hino is too careless. If he had kept his nerve a little longer, he would have been able to follow Shikikagami.

That's a little harsh, don't you think? Well, if Hino had pulled Sanae by the hand at that time, it might have been a different story.

"....."

This is a slightly distasteful image, so Kaoru drowns out the image in her mind's eye.

It's not that I don't like Shikikagami, it's just that I don't like to see Hino acting so derelict.

I think of them as my best friends, so I want them to be a little more manly.

While thinking that this may be a selfish hope, Kaoru lets herself be carried away by the shaking of the train.

Unlike the train on the way there, the train on the way back was crowded, and Oka was standing next to me, our arms almost touching.

If I were dating a man, I would be very conscious of this, but fortunately or unfortunately, my date is a girl, so I am not distraught.

Even when the stranger around me follows me around, I can manage to put up with him for a little while.

It proves that the time I spent with Hino was not a waste.

..... However, my roommate should be on the station platform right now, twilighting with Shikikagami. It's not very interesting after all.

(alt:However, my roommate, who is important to me, should be on the platform of the station around this time, looking at the mirror of the four seasons and twilight.....as I thought, it's kind of uninteresting.) Hey, Daichi?

What's?

Kaoru was too absorbed in her thoughts when a voice called out to her, and she turned around with a small shiver running down her spine.

I felt awkward that I had been thinking about someone who was not here, and I asked him, "We are almost at Sunohara, what should we do? Should we wait for Sanae and the others?

Or should we go back to Hakuryo first?

When asked, Kaoru is a little troubled.

Normally, we should wait for them when we lose them, but both we and they know it's time to go home.

If so, I have no problem going back first, and - for personal reasons - it would be nice to be able to go back to the dorms first.

If I could make this quick, I should be able to finish showering before Hino gets home.

After taking a breath and thinking about it, Kaoru gave her answer back to Oka.

Let's go home first. We don't have to wait for Hino and the others.

I'll do it then. Then we can talk about it on the bus on the way home.

(alt: "Hmm, then let's do it.... Then, let's talk on the bus on the way home...") ".....?"

Kaoru hears Oka muttering to himself, probably in a very low voice.

I don't know what the intention was, but before I could ask him, I heard an announcement that we were arriving at the station, so I somehow missed the timing.

(alt: I don't really understand what he meant, but when I arrived at the station before I could ask, I heard an announcement, so I somehow missed the timing.) Inwardly tilting her head, Kaoru silently waits for the train to arrive, and as soon as the doors open, she joins the wave of people being ejected and descends to the platform.

I left the station and went to the bus stop to enjoy the feeling of openness, just in time to see a bus heading toward Hakuryo.

If you look at Oka right away, he will look at you at the same time and say, "The bus is coming, let's get on it! Come on, Daichi, let's hurry!

Ah."

We boarded the bus as fast as we could and found few passengers on board.

Oka, who entered first, took the last seat in the back, leaving a little space for Kaoru to sit next to him.

I think my daily conduct has been good. There are very few buses at this time of the day, so if you miss this one, you have to wait nearly 20 minutes for the next one.

"....., yes."

(alt: "... that's right") Sanae and the others will be on the next bus, right? I feel sorry for them, but I think it's convenient for me.

..... Also, Oka says something meaningful.

After waiting for the bus to start moving, Kaoru asked Oka, who was standing next to her, "What do you want to do with me?

Is there some reason why it would be better if Tatsu Hino were not here?

I'm not sure if it's because I'm on a date, but the fact that you're asking me these questions makes me feel like you don't have a pulse, so I'm not sure what to do.

(alt: "Hmm... it's just a date, but when you ask such a question, it makes me feel like you've got no pulse.") Her tone doesn't sound too distressed, but even so, Kaoru is surprised.

Yes, "just in case."

And "in form."

This was a date.

Then it may be strange to wonder, if not to rejoice at the two-person situation.

When I realized my gaffe and suddenly felt anxious that even a small thing like this might reveal me as a woman, I was told, "Well, that's okay, but.... Daichi is right, I can't talk about it with Sanae and Hino around.

Before making any apologies or excuses, Oka said, keeping the tone of his voice the same.

He looked at me with friendly eyes, despite his thick, strong eyebrows, and said, "You know what I asked Hino-kun to do for us today to make it look like a double date, right?

"....., or something like that."

(alt: "... in other words") Hino's explanation for the embarrassing misunderstanding was, as I recall, something along those lines.

But Oka's mouth clearly says, ".....?"

(alt: 「..... ? 」) I think this is the first time I've ever heard the word "I" in a sentence.

When Kaoru nodded her head, Oka smiled shyly and said, "To tell you the truth, I've recently started to think that Daichi-kun is really nice.

..... He made the outrageous bombshell statement without hesitation.

Kaoru was very upset by this.

Although I tried to avoid expressing this as much as possible, I had little confidence that it was working.

In a manner of speaking, "Date.

I had been told that I was a "good person," but I had no idea that she saw me that way.

And while it's nice to be thought of that way, I'm a woman, too.

They may be aware that I am a man, but the fact remains that we are both women, so there is nothing I can do about it, and it is very, very difficult.

Kaoru was at a loss for words, not knowing how to respond, when Oka looked at her and lightly waved his hand, "Oh, I'm sorry for saying this so suddenly, okay? But today, when we actually spent more time alone together than usual, I wondered if it was rude to say it this way... I just thought it was a little different."

"..... wrong?"

I'm going to go with "yes. I'm really sorry after I said something suggestive, but when we went on the date, I wasn't really thrilled with it, or maybe I just liked her as a friend.

"....."

While these words would normally be considered a disappointment, for Kaoru, they were a relief.

I was asked on a date by the other party, but I was rejected before I knew what was going on. But if he had asked me to confess, I would have had no choice but to say no, and being nervous is a problem too.

(alt: I was asked out on a date from the other side, and I didn't really understand it, but I was dumped.) No, it may not be so much of a problem since they think it is the opposite sex, but it is difficult for us to deal with the same-sex rejection.

I am not pretending to be a man because I am gambling on my future, not because I have a taste for men's clothing or an uncontrollable interest in homosexuality.

While Kaoru exhaled a secret sigh of relief, Oka continued the conversation by touching the dimple area with his finger as if scratching it.

When he held my hand and I held on to him when I was about to fall, I could only think "Wow, your fingers are more beautiful than mine" or "Your waist is so thin". When we were up close and personal with each other, I was so focused on the fact that her skin was so beautiful that Daichi was jealous. I don't know what to think of that.

(alt: "Even if you held my hand, when I was about to fall and you hugged me..." "Wow, your fingers are prettier than mine." Even when we met face-to-face up close, I noticed that Daichi-kun had such beautiful skin that I was jealous.) "....., eh, and"

(alt: "..... Uh.....") "Oh, no, no, no, no. You don't like it when people say things like that, do you? I really envy you and admire you, but I think it might be a little too much for you boys to handle.

"..... っ"

Kaoru was about to reply, "That's not true," but then she panicked and pulled herself together.

If you're a man, you're probably thinking, "Oh, no.

I guess there must be.

I'm a woman, so I was flattered by the compliment and wanted to thank her for confirming that I hadn't been found out.

..... No, in this unfamiliar and unique situation, I'm not immediately sure what the right decision is for a man.

In this condition, things may fall apart sooner or later.

As Kaoru calmly and carefully reminds herself, "Ah, but I wonder if Daichi will take that as a compliment.....?"

Suddenly, Oka said something like that.

You deny it yourself, and then say, "Ohchi, you don't have the right to..."

What does that mean?

For a moment, I felt a chill, thinking that perhaps they had discovered that I was a woman, but that was not the intention.

Kaoru frowns and stares at the classmate who made the strange comment, wondering what it is then, but not knowing what it is.

Then, as if prompted by his gaze, Oka opened his mouth and said something outrageous.

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

Tëm, I was struck by a blow of words I had never received before, a blow that would leave not only my head but also my soul a blank slate.

Stunned by the destructive power of the coffee, Kaoru takes the time to sip a cup of coffee and think about the meaning of what was said.

..... What did Oka just say? He said, "I like Hino."

Wouldn't you have said something like that if you had? I'll tell you about Hino's
".....! "

The lines she had been ruminating over mechanically suddenly seemed to heat up, and Kaoru almost stood up on the spot.

I could hear her inarticulate scream in the back of her throat, and her face was probably flushed bright red.

Oka's remarks were so outrageous that we were aware of it.

I mean, there is no way that I like Hino, but rather, "Hino is a guy, and I'm a guy too!"

Did they know that I'm a woman?

As Kaoru's heart was filled with surprise and anxiety, and she felt dizzy, Oka suppressed his voice and laughed.

"Oh no, I know what I'm doing."

"..... so, so or"

(alt: "... I-Is that so...") That one word was a relief from the bottom of my heart.

Patients who were diagnosed with terminal cancer but found out it was just a polyp would surely be able to empathize with their current state of mind.

She somehow manages to get her body back on its feet, but then she realizes that it's important to wait.

..... Oka does not know that she is a woman.

It was a done deal.

Then, why did you say that you like Hino and that? Kaoru looked quizzically into Oka's face and said, "I'm sorry, but I don't understand. I'm sorry, but I don't understand."

"Well, you know, I can tell by watching you. You were always thinking about Hino-kun during today's date, weren't you?"

"I'm not, I've been a little concerned about that, but I'm"

I say to myself, "That's a lie."

I feel ashamed of myself.

Oka was right. He was definitely aware of Hino, following him with his eyes and trying to get a glimpse of his nose.

But that doesn't mean I like them, and I can argue with that.

Despite her rationality to deal with the situation calmly, Kaoru ignores the heat rising in her body as best she can, and speaks in a calm tone of voice.

"But that's because I consider Hino an important friend and, for my own selfish reason, a close friend."

I have not asked Hino what he thinks of us, and it may be a one-way assumption, but at least he is someone special to me.

I think he is not only my roommate, but I can rely on him and know him well enough to know him.

It's embarrassing enough to say it like this, but it's much better than being mistaken for liking it.

Kaoru, thinking about it and feeling her cheeks flush, said to Kaoru, "A best friend, huh , umm,, I feel a little different"

Oka raises a thick eyebrow and folds his arms as if unconvinced.

I guess they are the same in the sense of being special, but in your case it looked different. But maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm just wishing for something.

(alt: "I guess they're the same in the sense of being special, but in Daichi-kun's case, it looked different... Ah, but maybe I'm misunderstanding? Maybe it's just a wish...") "....., what exactly did you see differently?"

Kaoru asks, just to be sure, so that she can clearly prove that she doesn't like him, and Oka glares at the seat in front of him and says, "Hmmm... I have a girl I can call my best friend, though, don't I?"

"..... Oh."

(alt: "..... Oh") I don't really care if she gets along with boys. If he's a very nice guy, I may envy him, but if he looks dangerous, I'll be wary of him. Otherwise, I'll just keep a warm eye on him.

(alt: "Even if he's on good terms with a boy, I don't particularly care. Of course, if he's a really good guy, I'd be jealous, but if he's a bad guy, I'd be wary... Otherwise, I'll just watch over you warmly.") "....."

But Daichi, you were very conscious of Hino-kun being friendly with Sanae, weren't you? At first, I thought you might like Sanae, but when I looked at you, I saw that you were not. Then I wondered why she would be so unhappy if the two of us were stuck together, and then I thought, "Maybe Ouchi likes Hino-kun."

The way he spoke was more like he was confirming his own thoughts than explaining them to us.

The fact that she never looks at Kaoru and sometimes tilts her head in an unsure manner is good evidence.

However, for Kaoru, the content was so shocking that she couldn't just talk to herself.

I tried my best to keep my voice from trembling and my throat from wheezing as I said,
 "....., that, for example, that, for example, that, that, that, that, that
, that, that, that, that, that, that, that, that, that
, that, that, that"

(alt: Desperately trying to hold back my trembling voice and gasping for thirst, I said, "... uh, uh... for example, for example... yes, for example, what is it... ...") Hmm? Please, go ahead, you can tell me.

The voice sounds as if it is still half conscious of what it is thinking.

Turning to the slightly vacant Oka, Kaoru swallows hard, carefully choosing her words

"For example, would it be the same if your best friend was of the opposite sex instead of the same sex?"

What do you mean, "Yes"?

"So, what's the point of being jealous of your best friend being friendly with someone of the opposite sex other than yourself, and not being jealous?"

Hmmm... .., that's a tough one.

(alt: "Hmm... that's a difficult question.") Kaoru waited, her heart pounding so hard it felt like it was going to burst, to see what Oka, who was snarling inside his mouth and raising his eyebrows, would say.

When time seems to be taking an inordinately long time and I'm starting to feel like I'm suffocating, I say, "Well,, yeah, I guess you can't always say that, but"

"....., I know, but?"

If you're best friends, you should be happy for them, right? Well, you might be a little jealous, but if you're best friends, you might be more inclined to cheer her up. But if you're best friends, you're more likely to feel like cheering them on. Yeah, at least I'd enjoy the situation."

If you are then would you think that instead of the opposite sex, you would be? ...?"

The first thing that you need to do is to make sure that you have a good relationship with the person you're talking to. It means that they like each other, yes.

" " "

.....

(alt: 「……………」) I was in junior high school and my friend was having a hard time getting along with a boy she had known since childhood. From the outside looking in, you'd think, 'Hurry up and confess and follow him,' but he didn't notice at all. …… What are you talking about?

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) Oka answered brightly while sharing his own episodes, but Kaoru was on the verge of collapsing from the chemical reaction of despair and shame.

No, it cannot be, and I am denying it with all my might.

Ah, so that's what this is all about!

The two opposing selves go berserk, and the urge to throw it all away and disappear takes over, without even the energy to move a finger.

Shocked and overwhelmed, I could not understand what Oka was saying to me.

..... Kaoru found herself back in her room at the dormitory.

If I recall my memory, I do remember having some sort of conversation with Oka.

I'm sorry I misunderstood you.

(alt: "Sorry for the misunderstanding") Or, "Let's go out again.

I also remember that we parted ways after such words as "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

(alt: I remember saying goodbye after those words.) However, my memory of the day after we parted in front of the dormitory was cut off.

I was in a daze, forgot to change my clothes or take a bath, and before I knew it, I was in my own bed. In the darkness, listening to the heavy thumping of my heart, all I could think of was, "I've got to get out of here... or what should I do?!

We just recently positioned ourselves as best friends.

We are still going to be living together, hiding our gender identity, for more than two years.

I can't believe that I might have fallen in love with Hino! Kaoru is unable to move from her bed until Hino comes back.